

“A Book of
Verses
Underneath
the Bough, A
Jug of Wine, A
Loaf of Bread -
and Thou
Beside me
singing in the
Wilderness -
Oh, Wilderness
were Paradise
enow!”

-Edward
Fitzgerald

THE CRUMB

The Official News Source of the Bread Loaf School of English

Volume 84, Number 1

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Welcome (back) to Bread Loaf!

Although it may seem that the summer session truly begins only upon your first glimpse of that distinctive cream-and-green color scheme, or at the first mention of “teleology” or “Suppressed Desires” or “fennel,” the 84th session of the Bread Loaf School of English will **officially** open this evening at 7:30 (just after the Opening Night Banquet) with a brief ceremony in the Burgess Meredith Little Theater, featuring remarks by Bread Loaf Director Jim Maddox, Deputy Director Emily Bartels, and Middlebury College President John McCardell. At that time you will meet the faculty, actors, and other “big people on campus.” You will, no doubt, be treated to the engagingly bizarre story of Joseph Battell. You will hear of the School’s impressive projects over the past year and of its ambitious plans for the coming summer. And (those of you returning to Vermont after sojourns elsewhere, rejoice!) you will do this in the refreshingly buttock-friendly, recently upholstered Theater chairs. Refreshments will follow on the West Lawn (or the Barn, if inclement weather intervenes). All students are cordially invited to attend.

Oh, the Places You’ll Go!

While it won’t take long to orient yourself, the *Crumb* recognizes that newcomers have to find their way to a potentially bewildering array of people, places, and events today. Refer to the map on the back of this issue to help you locate where you are, where you need to go, and where you’ll while away the sunny afternoons in an Adirondack chair, reading the *Inferno* and flailing ineffectually at insect life keen on approximating for you the agonies of the usurers in the Seventh Circle.

The Front Desk

Stationed behind the counter from which you acquired this publication are Innkeepers-for-Life Edward and Victoria Brown and the Front Desk staff: Peter Newton, Kalli Federhofer, Joy MacVey, and J.B. Wogan. Together they impart such order to Bread Loaf that without their collective efforts, the campus would inexorably devolve into an anarchy reminiscent of *Lord of the Flies* (although Gilmore fuels the theory that the Desk’s considerable powers nonetheless diminish outside a half-mile radius).

Back and Blue

All students should wend their way down the hall in the rear west corner of the Inn between 9 and 4 today. Mark your hometown with a pushpin on the map posted in the hall. Your next stop is the Blue Parlor, where the cheerful faces of various College officials will contrast starkly with the glowering visage of Joseph Battell, whose portrait hangs above the fireplace. They will help you confirm your course selections, register your vehicle, verify that your health forms have been received, and check that the financial side of the summer is in order.

The Bread Loaf Office(s)

The noble work done by the Bread Loaf Office staff has grown to such proportions that they have expanded into a two-office establishment. Visit Judy Jessup and Sandy LeGault in the Inn Seminar Room if you have questions about fellowships, letters of recommendation, or transferring credits. In the back of the Inn, you’ll find Elaine Lathrop, Lexa DeCourval, and Jennifer Peltier ready to set up appointments with the Directors and assist with any other administrative concerns you may have.

Bookstore

The Bookstore is located in the Annex basement and stocks course texts, health supplies, and all manner of paraphernalia bearing various Bread Loaf insigniae. Ed Brown and the Front Desk staff double as your Book-Keepers this summer; they will dispense their wares from 1-6 today and 8:30-3 tomorrow, after which normal hours (posted on the Bookstore door) will resume. In these heady early days of the summer, it’s easy to talk yourself into buying *Dombey and Son* for “a little pleasure reading” - but for this week at least, please purchase texts only for those classes in which you are enrolled. By the time that prohibition expires, you’ll be buried under an avalanche of secondary texts and will give about as much thought to reading *Dombey* as you would to reconstructing Johnson Pond with your bare hands.

Cash Cache

The closest thing Bread Loaf has to an ATM is the Front Desk, where the staff will gladly cash personal checks (limit one per day, made out to Middlebury College) in amounts up to \$50. Distrust any mention, no matter how convincingly delivered, of a “service charge” or “processing fee,” and under no circumstances should you make the check out to “Peter Newton” or “Director’s Discretionary Fund.”

Library

The Davison Library will be kept whisper-soft this summer by Brent Goeres, Chris Brady, Jonathan Blake, Nancy Reynolds, and Michelle Lee. Davison contains a relatively thorough collection of literary and reference works, and it’s a snap to obtain any other needed books from Starr Library on the main campus. The Library provides studying environments for every personality and situation - the looming deadline for your Theory, Counter-Theory paper may force you to seek out the Spartan furnishings of the second floor (where typing is allowed), while a rainy afternoon with Annie Proulx invites the more Epicurean pleasure of the careworn but comfy sofa in front of a crackling fire. Please use the first-floor computers only for library research or other typing-free activity, as even the muted clatter of iMac keys is terribly distracting.

SCHEDULE

9 AM - 4 PM
Registration
Blue Parlor

6 PM
Opening Banquet
Dining Hall

7:30 PM
Opening
Ceremony
Little Theater

Following
Ceremony
Refreshments
West Lawn

MENU

Opening Night Banquet

Fruit cup, poached salmon with dill, beef tenderloin with horseradish sauce, polenta w/ gorgonzola and sun-dried tomatoes, baked potatoes, cherry tomato sauté with peas, and apple cranberry pie or decadent chocolate cake.

WEATHER

Today
Lovely.
Sunny, 88.

Tomorrow
Sun & clouds, 90.

Thursday
Sun & clouds, 91.

Still PC to Say "Apple Cellar"

Tucked beneath the north end of the Library is Bread Loaf's Computer Center, the Apple Cellar - a rustic but only partially accurate name, as the Cellar contains PC's as well as Macs. It is supervised by Caroline Eisner and her loyal minions, one of whom will always be present to answer questions such as "How do I use BreadNet?", "Why won't this %*%&%#@ computer read my disk?", and "Do you think that *To The Lighthouse* is more an encapsulation of the ironies of matriarchal morality or a refutation of the impulse to elevate aesthetic sensibility to the level of philosophical truth? I have ten minutes to finish this." Please pay for your laser printing - we operate on the honor system but prefer that you subscribe to Odysseus' definition of "honor" as opposed to, say, Iago's.

Our Beautiful Laundrette

The small white hut between Larch and the Barn houses Bread Loaf's laundry facilities. Washing and drying cost \$1.25 each; the Front Desk can usually supply you with quarters. Brand-new washers and dryers may consign to oblivion the days when your dryer would gladly ingest your quarters, rattle and hum convincingly, yet effect no discernible change upon your garments in return. But we doubt it.

Patients Must Not Minister to Themselves

Instead, they should stagger, hobble, or limp across Route 125 to the Cornwall Clinic, where the Bread Loaf RN's can provide care for most routine medical issues, including writer's cramp and paper cuts. (Writer's block, unfortunately, is a condition beyond even their formidable talents and may require "alternative medicine" in the form of a brisk walk under the stars or a salubrious outing to the Waybury.) Clinic hours are posted on the front door. In an emergency, always call an ambulance first (9-388-3333), then alert the Front Desk. For an after-hours emergency, call the ambulance, then extension 2713 (Ed & Victoria) or 9-388-7703 (Jim Maddox).

Inn Security

Most of you will find that the only things you'll need keys for up here are starting your car and deciphering *Ulysses*, but those of you wanting additional security can certainly obtain a room key from the Front Desk. Be aware, however, that **both** you and your roommate (assuming you have one) must report (and quite possibly endure mild disdain from Ed Brown about how "this isn't the Waldorf Astoria, this is *Bread Loaf*") in order to receive keys. Any resulting lock-outs, however accidental, will incur a \$25 fee. All rooms, of course, can be locked from the inside whenever you please.

Right-Hand Man (and Woman)

"Assistant to the Director" is a title whose blandness belies the extent and importance of all the work performed by Kurt Broderson and Maggie Favretti, this year's Assistants. Kurt and Maggie will keep the campus amplified, liquefied, and shushified; they also perform dozens of other services that, while invaluable, tend to be invisible as well. So remember to say "thanks" and help make their jobs easier.

Imperil-elled Parking

It's safe to say that the only thing Gilmore, Tamarack, and Brandy Brook, have in common is the fact that their residents are the only people allowed to park next to their dormitories. Everyone else *must* park in the large lot in front of the Barn. Parking is **expressly** forbidden along Route 125 and behind the Inn, as doing so obstructs emergency vehicles, food delivery trucks, laundry service vans, and the like.

The opening of the summer session has traditionally coincided with the Vermont State Troopers' Festival of Ticketing Speeding Out-of-State Vehicles on Rte. 125, so don't take the hairpin turns at hair-raising speeds.

Contacting the Outside World

Phones involve numbers, and numbers are more the forte of the Meat Loaf School of Mathematics, so here are some tips to help you non-numerical types get in touch with the real world. Campus phone directories should be located near each dorm phone. All Middlebury College extensions are four digits long. Note that the Front Desk's extension is 2700; dialing 0 will connect you to the main College switchboard. To make a local call, dial 9 and the seven-digit number. To use a phone card or a long-distance service, dial 9 and the toll-free number.

If you find your dorm phone being unkindly monopolized, it will help to know that you can find a pay phone in the Inn lobby and a curiously situated phone booth outside the laundry room.

The Bread Loaf switchboard's hours are 8 AM-11PM Mon-Sat and 9 AM-11 PM Sunday; after 11, no incoming calls can be relayed to the dormitories. You may, however, place outgoing calls to your heart's content all night long and outsiders can call the dorm phones directly by adding your four-digit extension to (802)-388. Practice courtesy in your phone usage; remember that late-night calls can keep hallmates awake, and take messages unto others as you would have them take yours unto you.

Visiting the Outside World

The Big Bread Loaf van departs for downtown Middlebury each afternoon at 1:45 from the front of the Inn, with a scheduled return between 4 and 4:30. Given the van's 14-passenger capacity, however, you'll need to get your name on the sign-up sheet posted daily at the Front Desk.

News from the Outside World

The *Crumb* prides itself on holding its stable of writers (one) to the highest standards of journalistic integrity, but for those of you who subscribed to the *New York Times*'s more "creative" approach to accurate reporting, your copies can be picked up at the Front Desk each morning. And the *Crumb* won't be offended by the logical conclusion that you find its extremely local focus and meager two-color presentation woefully insufficient. Not at all.

The Postman Always Brings Twice

Twice the amount of mail you're used to getting, that is. Be aware that most of you will be sharing your mailbox with one of your immediate alphabetical neighbors, so under no circumstances should you simply help yourself to that compelling issue of the *New Yorker*, nor should you leave your electric bill in the box in the hopes that your box-buddy (or perhaps the legendary Mail Fairy) will pay it. Incoming mail is usually sorted by lunchtime; outgoing mail should be deposited in the slot in the door to the left of the mailboxes by 4 PM (2 PM on Saturday). The Front Desk can sell you stamps and is also your drop-off point for FedEx and UPS shipping.

Silence is the Perfectest Herald of Joy

So said Shakespeare, and - who are we to argue with *him*? - so says Bread Loaf. Remember that radios and CD players are immensely distracting (when turned on, that is, not inherently), so always use headphones. And while evenings of conversation and companionship on dorm porches are rightly to be cherished, at 11 PM you'll need to adjourn to the Barn or otherwise disperse.

Fax Facts, Copy Costs

The Bread Loaf Office possesses the only working fax machine on the Mountain, and can send your fax for \$1/page (domestic) or \$2/page (foreign). Please make arrangements with the Office before having faxes sent to you. The large copier in the Office is devoted exclusively to churning out course handouts and other official Bread Loaf business; please use the self-service copier in the library (\$.10/page) for all personal copying needs.

A Lesson Before Dining

You'll get fed far more than bread here at the Loaf, but you'll need to remember the prescribed weekday meal times: 7:30 for breakfast, 12:45 for lunch, and 6:00 for dinner. The waitstaff, under the leadership of Headwaiters Gary Montano, Leigh Kelly, and Julie Lausé, will give you food for thought and caffeine for composition, but remember to win their affection by arriving promptly and not lingering too long over that last cup of coffee. After all, they're **student** waiters, with classes to attend and papers to write, just like you.

Dining Hall symbolism isn't nearly as hard to decode as Hester Prynne's "A." An "X" of crossed silverware does mark the spot - as reserved for someone else. Tables whose chairs are leaning forward are not in service for that meal.

Weekend meals are self-service; the hours will be published in a future *Crumb*. Meal tickets for those not on the room and board plan can be purchased at the Front Desk; inquire there for this year's costs.

Snacks Survive Loss of Bar

Those who assiduously read between the lines also habitually eat between meals; for you late risers and afternoon snackers, there's bad and good news this year. Due to financial infeasibility, the Barn Snack Bar will not operate this summer. Fortunately, there will be coffee and pastries available in the Dining Hall between breakfast and lunch, and coffee and fruit in the Barn after dinner. Vending machines are located in the Barn for those whose dietary needs run towards high-fructose corn syrup and Red Dye #4.

It's Easy Being Green

The crystal-clear instructions on the recycling containers present just about everywhere on campus are, collectively, just about the only "text" around here in which **no** embedded meanings, ironic significances, or coded dialectics can be plausibly discerned. Put glass in the containers marked "glass," paper in those marked "paper," and so forth. Vermont state law mandates our commitment to this program, so you'd better fall into line. Little things help, too. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Use a travel mug or Nalgene bottle instead of disposable cup after disposable cup. And deposit spent batteries at the Front Desk, where they will receive a brief eulogy and then an environmentally sound disposal.

No Smoke, No Fire

The days can (and probably will) get downright chilly up here, and sometimes there's nothing to compare to the pleasure of sitting in front of a crackling fire. Be aware, however, that any outdoor fire requires a permit; if you talk to Ed at least 48 hours in advance, he'll arrange things with the local authorities.

Vermont state law prohibits smoking in *all* public buildings. If you opt to smoke elsewhere, please exterminate all smoking material in the sand pails placed around campus for that purpose. The Innkeepers request that there be no smoking on the front porch of the Inn, as the smoke tends to waft inside, where it is unwelcome.

The campus smoke detectors are easily triggered by cigarette smoke; if your room alarm goes off, air out the room and fan the smoke away from the alarm. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering smoke detectors are pleading for a new battery, which the Front Desk can provide. Chirping, buzzing, or twittering animals are perfectly normal for Vermont, and under no circumstances should attempts be made to equip *them* with new batteries.

Finally, as you are under the auspices of a College, it's only fitting that you must also abide by the uniquely collegiate regulation prohibiting even the smallest appliances - coffee makers, microwaves, hair dryers, and the like - in your dorm rooms. Bread Loaf's electrical system still retains its 19th-century fragility, and these modern marvels unfortunately overburden the circuits and increase the risk of fire. (Happily, the bathrooms are wired to handle hair dryers.) Contraband items may mysteriously disappear from your rooms and be quietly absorbed by the local citizenry at Trader Jim's Annual End-of-Summer Yard Sale.

Sporting Chances

For those who seek both intellectual and physical exertion this summer, a wide variety of organized athletic opportunities awaits. Gary Montano has been the driving force (throwing force?) behind Ultimate Frisbee since the Carter administration; look for the first gathering tomorrow evening in the field. Wimbleloaf, the tennis tournament that inspired such feeble imitations across the pond, will begin soon. Soccer, volleyball, and softball (a Frost favorite) have each attracted a following in recent years, and the Charlie Orr Fun Run and the Bread Loaf Golf Scramble are late-summer staples. Anyone interested in organizing any of these activities (or others as yet undreamt of) should drop a note to the *Crumb*.

Middlebury College's spectacular athletic facilities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, an extensive fitness center, and a challenging but friendly golf course. \$75 buys you all the golf you can play all summer long; the other facilities only require you to show your student ID for entrance.

Something for the Young and Restless

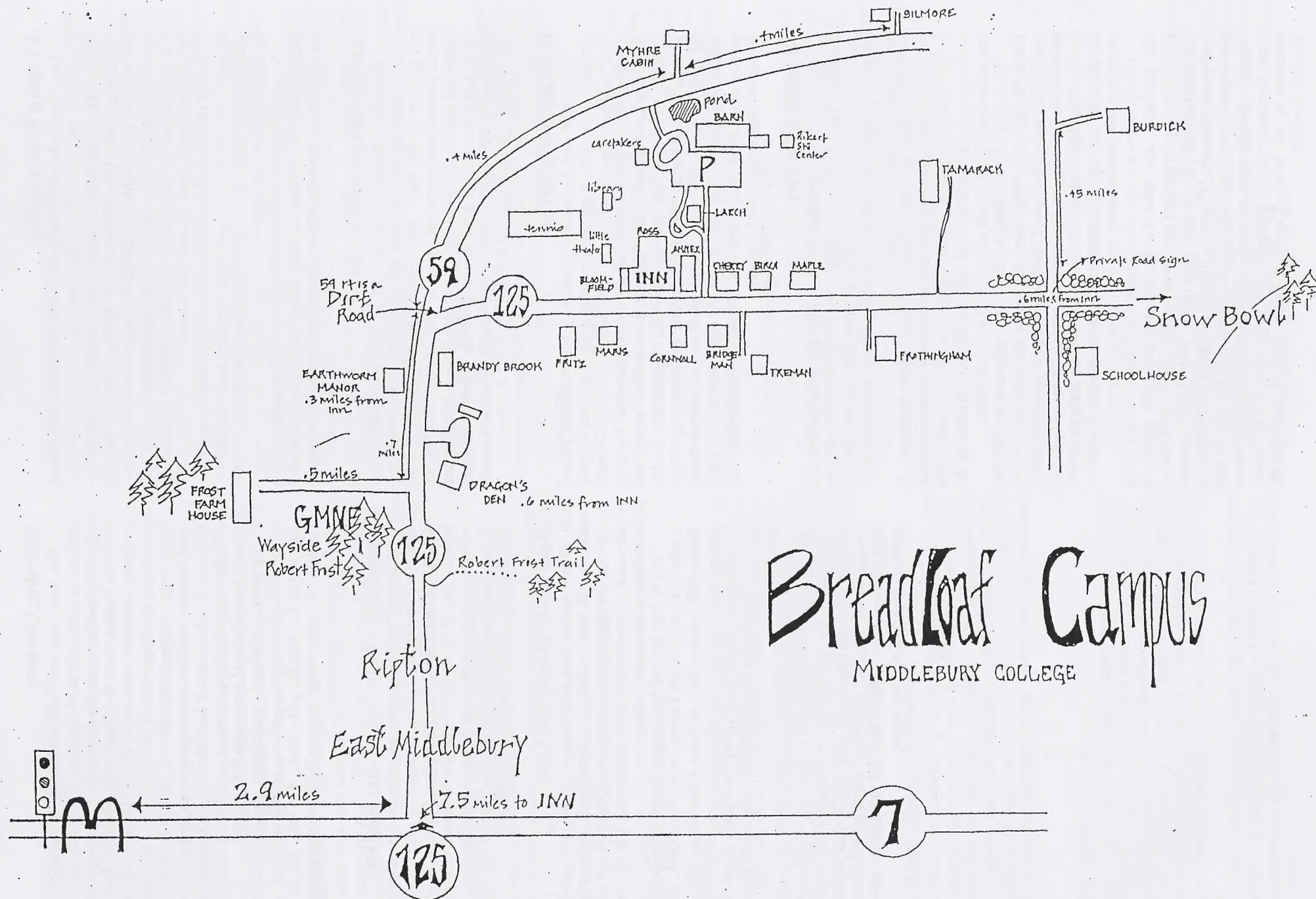
"Croutons" is Bread Loaf's day camp for the under ten crew - but they don't spend their time in seminars such as "Strategies of Subversion and Abstention: The Puritan Ethos in Seussian Fiction." Instead, the Mary Johnson Children's Center offers a lively and enriching program at the Ripton Elementary School on Lincoln Road. If you need more information or already know that you'd like your child to attend, call the Child Center at 388-2853.

Your Daily Slice of the Loaf

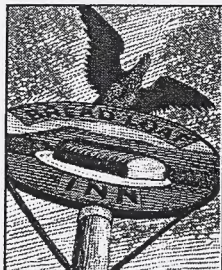
The *Crumb* is your daily source of recent news, upcoming events, all sorts of announcements, a notoriously undependable weather forecast, the dinner menu, and dozens of bad puns and strained literary allusions. A summerlong trivia contest and Top 10 List competition commence in tomorrow's issue.

You'll find hot-off-the-presses (warm-from-the-copier, really) stacks of *Crumbs* in the Library, at the Front Desk, and outside the Dining Hall entrance each weekday at lunchtime. The *CyberCrumb*, the electronic version of this publication, is posted each morning in the CyberBarn for our peers in Oxford, New Mexico, and Alaska and for hordes of Bread Loaf alumni suffering from annual late-June pangs of nostalgia.

Crumb Bum Jon Freeman encourages you to contact him by 11 AM with any announcements or news you'd like included in that day's issue. Use his PO Box or BreadNet, but double-check that spelling, lest you mistakenly send your moose sighting or airport transportation plea to Professor Jonathan Freedman, who will doubtless respond politely but fail to provide the campuswide publicity for which you had hoped.



Breadloaf Campus
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE



ODDS & ENDS

Which author carried two pens with him at all times – “a big one for long words,” he claimed, “and a smaller one for the little ones”?

(See last news item for further details...)

SCHEDULE

5:00
Senior Reception
Earthworm

7:00
Arcadia
Auditions
Little Theater

7:30
Ultimate Frisbee
Field

MENU

Roast turkey breast or butternut squash gratin; mashed potatoes with vegetarian gravy; peas, mushrooms, and pearl onions; Frenchy's surprise for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
A toasty Loaf.
89 degrees.

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy, 92.

Thursday
Pretty much the same, 89.

THE CRUMB

“What a piece of work!” – Hamlet, Prince of Denmark

Volume 84, Number 2

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Et In Arcadia Sumus!

Translated, that's “And we are in *Arcadia*” – exactly what those cast in this summer's production of Tom Stoppard's engrossing play will be able to say. *Arcadia* juxtaposes the lives of the inhabitants of a country house in 1809 with some literary and mathematical detective work taking place in the same house in the present day. The Acting Ensemble hits the ground running more quickly than most (six weeks from casting to curtain will do that to you), so auditions will be held **this evening at 7:00** in the Little Theater. Five roles need to be filled by members of the Bread Loaf community (students, faculty, staff, or family members). One character is a woman in her late teens/early twenties, and the other roles are men ranging from adolescence to middle age or older. All you need to bring is yourself; the play is on reserve in the library, but no advance knowledge or preparation is required.

Students in the Directing Workshop will also be in attendance in the hopes of finding actors for their individual scenes, so please come to tonight's auditions if you are interested in working with one of them. Finally, anyone interested in contributing to *Arcadia* behind the scenes should speak with Theatre Manager Faye Christensen tonight or anytime soon.

Mind Your Manor Manners

Seniors are invited to make their way to Earthworm Manor at 5 this afternoon for a reception with the Bread Loaf administration and faculty. Earthworm etiquette frowns on cashew-hogging, and any questions to the Director regarding the supposed casino in the cellar are likely to be met with a practiced and steely denial.

The Worm Turns

Tomorrow afternoon all students new to Bread Loaf or to the Vermont campus should stroll or drive the quarter-mile west on 125 to Earthworm Manor, the white house on the right side of the road (coming from the Inn). There you will be welcomed by Jim Maddox, Emily Bartels, and representatives of the Bread Loaf staff. Laden with the aforementioned cashews and other refreshments, you can meet fellow newcomers and collectively ponder some of the common opening-week mysteries, such as “What is this ‘Suppressed Desires’ everyone keeps mentioning?” and “What did you do wrong to get put out at Gilmore?”

And After That...

Although they'll doubtless meet many of you at Thursday's reception, Jim and Emily want to get to know everyone well – so all new students (or students new to Vermont) should see Elaine in the Bread Loaf office to set up a short meeting with one of the Directors.

Don't Wait – Wait!

Headwaiters Montano, Lause, and Kelly are seeking volunteers to serve as substitute waiters for occasional meals, the better to reward our splendid student servers with deserved time off. Yes, subs get paid, although the actual amount remains a mystery as of press time. Anyone interested in joining the waitstaff and receiving the summer's room and board at no charge should also contact any of the Headwaiters.

Ultimate

Perhaps Gary Montano's waiter-recruitment drive can kick off this evening after dinner, when a spirited but not overly competitive game of Ultimate will take place on the field in front of Tamarack. Players of all skill levels are welcome.

Porch Has 12 Steps

The *Crumb* has received word that anyone interested in holding 12 step meetings here on campus should meet this Thursday at 2:00 p.m. on the front porch of the Inn.

Roman Fever

On Friday nights it's traditional for the Barn to transform itself into the Bread Loaf Uniplex Cinema 1, featuring all the latest advances in moviegoing technology except for cup holders, digital sound, stadium seating, \$6 soda, and melted Jujubes on the bottoms of your shoes. This Friday's film is Roman Polanski's detective drama *Chinatown*. Starring Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Huston, *Chinatown* is hailed as a modern masterpiece, so troop on over to the Barn at 9 on Friday. The *Crumb* can predict, though not guarantee, an appearance by the startling but harmless Barn Bat.

Square Roots

No doubt Joseph Battell would invite the corn-fed lads and blushing milkmaids of Addison County up to the Inn to do-se-do and promenade with the stately Inn guests. (We at the *Crumb* are somewhat less constrained in our reporting by the actual existence or nonexistence of archival information, and we prefer to believe that Robert Frost and Willa Cather executed a particularly ungainly Allemande Left together.) Regardless of what happened back then, Francis Cram and his band will teach us how to swing, dip, and dive our way through the Texas Star and the Virginia Reel this Saturday in the Barn. The dance begins at 8, and get there early, lest you miss caller Tom Bahre's explanation of the difference between “digging for the oyster” and “diving for the clam.”

ID Idiosyncrasies

Hang on to those Bread Loaf School of English ID's, as you'll need them to check out books from the library or gain access to the athletic facilities downtown. And for those whose undergraduate years are a distant memory, there's a delicious pleasure in suddenly becoming eligible for student discounts once again.

Lightning Striking Once Is Enough

Although thunderstorms certainly aren't in the forecast for the immediate future, the technology folks at Middlebury aren't taking any chances. They remind you that a Green Mountain thunderstorm can zap your laptop with one ill-timed power surge and recommend that you unplug your personal computers from the phone jack and power outlet when not in active use. If you're in the Apple Cellar, save your work repeatedly to avoid the mass banshee-wail that traditionally follows a temporary loss of power to the Cellar.

The Fast Will Be Furious

Director's Assistant, local resident and Honorary Vermont State Patrolman Kurt Broderson sends word that the Ripton speed trap is alive and well and ready to incense speeding Bread Loafers. Keep in mind that fines are highest where the speed limits are lowest, and keep it under 30 as you glide through "downtown" Ripton.

Network Connection

Dixie Goswami asks that all Bread Loaf Teacher Network and Bread Loaf in the Cities participants meet tomorrow in Barn 1 from 7-9 PM.

A Lotta Errata

It is traditional for the *Crumb* to adopt, in its first issue, a tone of blithe confidence in the truth of its every utterance. It is also traditional, sadly, for that tone to change abruptly to meek contrition upon the discovery of the previous day's inaccuracies. Apologies, therefore, for the following slips:

- To call the dorm phones directly, dial (802) 443-your extension, not (802) 388-your extension.
- Lea Kelley's name is spelled "Lea Kelley," not "Leigh Kelly."
- Peter Newton informs me that actually, personal checks can **certainly** be made out to him and not to "Middlebury College." I thought I heard chuckling as I walked away from the Front Desk, but Peter's been here longer than I have, so who am I to question his integrity?

Course Additions

Having second thoughts about your course selections? Worried because you assumed a course called "Still Life" wouldn't require much class participation? Consider these alternatives, last-minute additions to the Bread Loaf catalog:

209. Yellin' About *Ellen*: Critical Perspectives on Joseph Battell
A survey of the unswervingly negative critical reception of Bread Loaf's pastoral physics prose poem, *Ellen*. Students will primarily analyze the narrative, rhetorical, and stylistic strategies utilized by academic luminaries in their condemnations of Battell's work, then produce a scathing analysis of their own as a final project. We will read no more in *Ellen* than is absolutely necessary. Required texts: Cleanth Brooks, *Unremitting Disparagement: New Essays on Joseph Battell*; Shel Silverstein, *My Talking Tree At Least Made Sense*; Esther Battell, *He's A Nice Boy: Memories of an Underappreciated Son*.

46. Indoctrination to Ingratiation: The Lesser-Known Works of Bread Loaf Professors

Designed for the student whose vapid and/or leaden contributions to the class necessitate resorting to outright obsequiousness in order to achieve a passing grade, this course is designed to familiarize students with the obscurer texts in faculty members' *oeuvres*, the better to introduce them into casual conversation in the hopes that flattery will get them somewhere. Required texts: David Huddle, *Risqué and Other Stories*; Paul Muldoon, *Poems Whose Rhyme Schemes You Just Haven't Noticed Yet*; Jonathan Freedman, *The Image of the Cowboy Financier Gangster Aesthete in Late Victorian Film*; Harriet Chessman, *Lydia Cassatt Dunks A Brioche in Her Lukewarm Coffee*; Emily Bartels, *Television Shows I've Only Watched Once... Really!*

Biting Criticism

The staff of the Cornwall Clinic reminds everyone that scratching mosquito bites is counterproductive; doing so risks infection, which causes glands to swell, which leads to worries that something far more serious is wrong. Rest assured that the alchemists at the Bread Pudding School of Chemistry are hard at work on a process that will cause mosquito bites to yield freshwater pearls, but they have not yet reported significant progress.

Eat Between Meals

Soon, people will wonder why we ever needed a Snack Bar. Ed Brown announces that a microwave will be installed in the Barn any day now and that the Bookstore will soon carry a wide range of nonperishable and microwaveable foodstuffs, including Pepperidge Farm cookies, chips, ramen noodles, and soup. He's looking for community input on what else he should stock, so stop by the Front Desk and tell him what you'd like to see on the shelves. You might want to buy an airtight container for any snacks you store in your room, as Bread Loaf's furry woodland critters seem to have acquired a taste for Cheez-Its and Chips Ahoy.

10 Things We Hate About You

In his Opening Night address, Jim Maddox usually makes playful reference to the momentary anxiety felt by every new student – the fear, sometimes hardening into pure certainty, that the work will be far beyond your capabilities, that you are undeserving of graduate study, that the Admissions Office made one – and only one – colossal mistake in their screening of applicants. Jim usually then defuses the fear rippling through the audience by assuring each and every new student that he or she does, in fact, belong at Bread Loaf. Notice that he did **not** include such comforting words in last night's address, as he usually does. Having conferred privately with him, the *Crumb* Bum has confirmed his suspicions – that there has, in fact, been such a catastrophic lapse on the part of the Admissions Office, precluding Jim from delivering his usual assuagement. Soon one of you will be quietly summoned to the Blue Parlor, where you will hear the unfortunate news and notice the Bread Loaf van idling outside, waiting to spirit you away. The *Crumb*, eager to identify more quickly the charlatan in our midst, has hit upon the solution: the return of the traditional Top Ten list. Please submit your nominations for **Top Ten Signs That You're the Admission Office's Mistake** to the *Crumb* by Friday at 11 AM for publication in that day's issue.

The *Crumb* Bum plans on making Top Ten lists a summerlong competition, so you may want to organize yourself by dorm (Men of Annex, Guys of Gilmore, Ladies of Larch, etc.) or other affiliation (Theater Staff, Front Desk) and direct your collected wit towards this end. Brave souls can, of course, opt for solo submissions.

How to Guess Well, Simplified

Once upon a time, the *Crumb* featured a Quote-of-the-Day competition, but in recent years gaggles of Googling students discovered the answers without any real effort. So we're switching to general trivia this year in the hopes that only preexisting knowledge or diligent research will unearth the answer. Or you could simply peruse the headlines, as one of them provides a clue – in today's case, the name of the author in question is embedded in the headline's text.



THE CRUMB

*"A thing of beauty...A joy forever."
-John Keats*

Volume 84, Number 3

Thursday, June 26, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Which famed American author, when asked why he had left his first wife, replied "Because I am a bastard"?

A clue lurks somewhere in a headline...

SCHEDULE

1:30
12-Step Meeting
Inn Porch

5:00
New Student
Reception
Earthworm

7:00-9:00
BLTN
Barn 1

9:00
Gilmore

MENU

London broil or black beans with sautéed dandelion greens, sorrel, and Vermont goat cheese; gratin of potatoes and mushrooms; green beans; rice pilaf; whole wheat bread; pineapple upside-down cake for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Inferno.
97 degrees!

Tomorrow
Purgatorio.
PM T-storms, 84.

Thursday
Paradiso.
Partly cloudy but cooler, 77.

Early Birds Get Best Meeting Times...

Another reminder that all new students should see Elaine to set up a time for a casual, friendly chat with either Jim or Emily. No, these meetings are not designed to test your knowledge of Benjamin or Milton – they're just pleasant conversations about your background, your interests, and your Bread Loaf experience thus far.

...but All New Students Get the Worm

All students new to Bread Loaf or to the Vermont campus are cordially invited to a Director's Reception this afternoon at 5 at Earthworm Manor – the cozy white cottage just west of the main campus on 125. Jim, Emily, and much of the Bread Loaf staff will be there to meet you; everyone promises to come up with other questions to ask you besides "What courses are you taking?"

Men Lead Lives of Quiet Desperation

Take it from this three-year Gilmore veteran – the Men of Gilmore habitually spend their Thursday afternoons crocheting doilies, touching up the dried flower arrangements, and silently fretting about whether anyone will come to their little soiree this evening. For the uninitiated, a Gilmore evening involves a solemn, deeply affecting excerpt from *Ellen*, a guest reader whose selections invariably demonstrate class and good taste, and a bonfire. (Disclaimer: Only one of the three components just mentioned is accurately described. You guess which one.) The festivities begin around 9 – bring your flashlight or borrow one from the Front Desk if you plan to walk.

BLTN – Not "Better Late Than Never"

All Bread Loaf Teacher Network members (including Bread Loaf in the Cities participants) should attend the first meeting of the summer, from 7-9 tonight in Barn 1. You know you don't want to disappoint Dixie.

12-Steppers Perch on Porch

A reminder that anyone interested in holding 12-step meetings on campus should gather on the Inn porch at 1:30 this afternoon. Note that the time has changed in order to accommodate those with afternoon classes.

Non-Moving Violations

The Barn parking lot, usually a bastion of order and civility, has sadly degenerated into what is easily the most disorganized vehicular arrangement in recent memory. Remember that when the lot fills up, parking should extend onto the lawn east of the Barn, not onto the sides of roads or other impermissible locations. Common sense should also dictate that rows cannot run three cars deep, but inconsiderate wretches have nonetheless been blocking in correctly parked vehicles. Please observe the signs on the sawhorses indicating proper parking formation and move your car if necessary; otherwise, the upcoming All-Campus Photograph will be followed by the All-Campus Barn Lot Evacuation and Realignment.

You Can't Rewrite the Past

Screenwriter Robert Towne earns Bread Loaf accolades for turning down the offer to write the script for the film version *The Great Gatsby*, claiming that he couldn't improve on the original. Happily, he turned his energies to an original script, *Chinatown*, which is the film showing on Friday evening at 9 in the Barn. A brooding, biting film noir set in 1930's Los Angeles, *Chinatown* is a staple on best-of-all-time lists. Come see why.

Hip to Be Square

The Barn is the place to be on Saturday night, as Francis Cram and his band return for an evening of Spanish Caballeros and Golden Slippers. Latecomers risk missing Tom Bahre's helpful explanations and reducing whole squares to shambles by digging for the oyster when you were supposed to dive for the clam. The fun starts at 9; snacks and frothy beverages provided, but a caveat lurks below...

Say "OK" to Corral

Middlebury College (and by extension, Bread Loaf) is under increasing scrutiny by Vermont State Liquor Control; seniors at yesterday's reception no doubt noticed the elegant ropes demarcating the area in which alcohol could be consumed. A similar barrier will be in effect for Saturday's dance; please be aware that we are being watched and keep your suds within the prescribed area on Saturday. Perhaps imagining this corral as part of an extended farming motif (Barn, Square Dance) will render it less of an inconvenience. Kurt and Maggie also ask that you bring an ID to the Square Dance in order for them to practice proper pouring and serve only to those of age.

Elegant Country House Open to Visitors

Well, you'll have to imagine the elegant country house, at least until the crew builds the *Arcadia* set. But Theatre Manager Faye Christensen reminds everyone that *Arcadia* rehearsals are open. They begin at 7 and usually run until 11; stay as long as you like, but take care to slip in and out of the Theatre as unnoticeably as possible.

Emergency Errors Emerge

Security says that the emergency number to call is 911 (not the local Ripton ambulance; they'll call them). If you dial 9-911, it can't be traced to our particular location.

Heads Up for Seniors

The first senior class meeting is tomorrow at 5 in the Blue Parlor. All seniors should make an effort to attend, as this meeting will be your only chance to nominate candidates for class president, Commencement speaker, and hooder. Kurt and Maggie will be lurking there to measure your heads for properly fitting graduation regalia, and yes, they do customarily add 3/8" to Friday's measurement to account for the inevitable cranial swelling due to the accumulated knowledge of a summer's study and/or a halo of black fly bites.

You Too Can Control Warts

The cast list for Abra Chernik's play *Warts* has been posted outside the Dining Hall, but Abra is still in need of a Stage Manager for the production. The job would involve only 3-4 rehearsals and the July 8 production; contact Carol MacVey to express your interest.

Potluck Proffered

Sensing that Bread Loafers with families in tow need chances to connect, Jumi Kim is offering to host a potluck supper this Monday at 5:30. As an added enticement, she notes that her house is "a log cabin by a lake." Get in touch with Jumi at (802) 247-5050 if you're interested in attending.

Moveable Feasts

A notice from the Dining Hall: The post-breakfast coffee and pastry will henceforward be located in the Barn; please stay out of the Dining Hall except during meal hours, as it's difficult for the kitchen staff to operate smoothly with uninvited guests underfoot.

Note also that breakfast begins **promptly** at 7:30; anyone arriving after 8:00 will, from this point forward, likely be greeted by a locked Dining Hall door. Remember that the waitstaff must be cleared out and off to class by 8:30!

Starting tomorrow and continuing through Sunday dinner, the Dining Hall shifts to self-service meals and more flexible hours: 8-9 for breakfast, 12:45-1:30 for lunch, and 6-6:45 for dinner.

Supply of Subs Sought

A reminder that even the seemingly superhuman waiters sometimes need to be spelled; anyone interested in picking up some pocket money in exchange for an occasional meal of service should contact Lea Kelley, Julie Lausé, or Gary Montano (who gamely fought through his Ultimate injury this morning to operate the clicker *with one hand*).

Do the Blue

Justin Morrill and Mark Valentine have graciously agreed to coordinate this summer's Blue Parlor reading series. A sign-up sheet has been posted at the Front Desk; if you would like to read your poetry or prose to a rapt audience of friends and admirers, hustle over there soon, as slots tend to fill up quickly.

The Art of Courtly Love-40

Posted on the bulletin board outside the Dining Hall are signup sheets for Wimbleloaf, our humble clay-court tennis tournament (although how "humble" anything in which Ed Brown plays a role can be is a debatable question). Do **not** confuse the Wimbleloaf and Blue Parlor signup sheets; the Sunday evening audience will not appreciate the finer points of your backhand volley, and your short story's narrative technique, while original and subtle, will be of negligible benefit against a well-placed first serve.

Magnolias Blossoming Nearby

Robbie Harold (BL '01) sends word that the Valley Players, a community theater group in Waitsfield, will be performing *Steel Magnolias*, featuring Robbie herself in the role of "the irascible Ouiser (Shirley MacLaine's role in the movie)." The show dates are June 27-29, July 4-6, and July 11-13, all at 8 PM except for a 2 PM matinee on July 13. Call (802) 583-1674 or visit valleyplayers.com for more information.

Everyone Makes Mistakes (Oh Yes, They Do)

Submissions have already been creeping in for this week's Top Ten list, **Top Ten Signs that You're the Admissions Office's One Mistake**. Don't dawdle or delay, as a slow start by other dorms likely means giving the Men of Annex juggernaut a nearly insurmountable lead. The deadline for entries is tomorrow morning at 11; the final list will be published in tomorrow's *Crumb*.

Not Exactly a Wells-spring of Responses

No one identified H.G. Wells as the answer to yesterday's trivia question – whether out of bewilderment or indolence is unclear. Anyway, remember the drill: Look at the trivia question. Perhaps you can make an educated guess as to this author's identity. Then glance at the headlines, looking for the clue embedded in one of them. Then submit your guesses to Jon Freeman via the Front Desk or BreadNet. Then gloat when you see your brilliance publicly recognized in tomorrow's *Crumb*.



THE CRUMB

"At times, indeed, almost ridiculous"
-T.S. Eliot

Volume 84, Number 4

Friday, June 27, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

*Whom did
Emerson once
call "a beautiful
half of a poet"?*

SCHEDULE

Friday
Senior Meeting
5 PM, Blue Parlor

Volleyball
After dinner, Field

Chinatown
9 PM, Barn

Saturday
Square Dance
9 PM, Barn

Sunday
Ultimate Frisbee
4 PM, Field

Blue Parlor Reading
7 PM, Blue Parlor

Sexual Orientation
Discussion Group
9 PM, Blue Parlor

MENU

Spaghetti and
meatballs with
tomato or alfredo
sauce; sautéed green
and gold romano
beans; garlic bread;
frozen strawberry
yogurt pie.

WEATHER

Today
Isolated t-storms,
87.

Tomorrow
Sunny,
83.

Sunday
Chance of
thunderstorms, 85.

Belated Bites

Here's the final word on those itinerant mid-morning and post-dinner snacks: After breakfast, coffee, fruit and pastry will be available in the Kitchen. The Headwaiters ask that you not sit in the Dining Hall to consume your midmorning snack, as the tables will have already been neatly set for lunch. After dinner, you can find refreshments set out in the Barn. Please remember that Frenchy, Richard, and the kitchen staff are going out of their way to provide this food for us, so try to pop in and out of the kitchen as unobtrusively as possible.

Phrenological Phenomena

Seniors are reminded of their important first meeting in the Blue Parlor this afternoon at 5, where you'll begin the process of selecting a class president, a Commencement speaker, and a hooder. Kurt and Maggie will also be there to measure each senior's head; while they will claim that this is to ensure a properly fitting Commencement cap, the truth is that Joseph Battell, child of the 19th century and enthusiast for specious scientific theory, inserted a little-known codicil in his will stipulating that all Inn guests receive a satisfactory score on a thorough phrenological exam before gaining admittance. Bread Loaf reluctantly adheres to his wishes, as funding for the Alaska campus depends on it, and urges concerned seniors to investigate techniques for maximizing the capacity of Organ 21, "the Poetical Talent."

Friday Field Trip to Chinatown

Roman Polanski's film noir masterpiece *Chinatown* will be shown this evening at 9 in the Barn. Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Huston provide the star power, Kurt and Maggie provide the SmartFood, but you'll have to buy your own soda pop from the machines.

Texas Stars Under Vermont Skies

Promenade on over to the Barn at 9 on Saturday for the Square Dance. Those new to Vermont and/or to square dancing have nothing to fear; Tom Bahre will walk you through the steps, and finding yourself swinging a complete stranger round and round is a great way to meet new folks. The Square Dance also generally generates the highest faculty turnout of any of the summer's dances, giving you a chance to see your formerly-distinguished professors, the people with intuitive grasps of postcolonial theory and hermeneutics, struggle to distinguish their left from their right in the flurry of the Ladies' Chain. Sudsy and non-sudsy beverages will be provided, but remember to bring your ID and to keep alcohol within the "Barn Yard," the roped-off area outside the main door.

Goff Grateful for Guitarists

Lewis Goff has issued an appeal for any guitarists interested in playing blues to get in touch with him. He's hoping to play as often as others are willing, and he's looking to explore the possibility of performing as part of a class presentation.

Copying Others' Work is OK

Only in the Bread Loaf Copy Center adjoining the Office, that is. Elaine Lathrop seeks a student to work regular hours (around your class schedule, of course) copying course handouts and other Bread Loaf material; in exchange, your room and board costs for the summer will be reimbursed. Stop by the Office if you are interested in this position or have any questions.

Who's Who for Blue

Blue Parlor reading slots used to be as hard to come by as air-conditioned study space up on the Mountain, but as of this writing Mark Valentine and Kurt Feuer were the only ones signed up to read on Sunday. Anyone interested in sharing their own work on this or any future Sunday should sign up at the Front Desk.

Popular Parlor

All members of the community interested in discussing issues of sexual orientation in education are invited to come to the Blue Parlor at 9 on Sunday (or just stick around after the readings).

Muldoon to Deliver Drew

The Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, named after one of Bread Loaf's most beloved teachers, will be given this year by another of Bread Loaf's most beloved teachers, newly minted Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Muldoon. His address will focus on the poetry of Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, and Marianne Moore, and it will take place on Tuesday at 7 in the Little Theatre. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

If Singing Forte is Your Forte

Crumb Bum Jon Freeman doubles as director of the Bread Loaf Madrigalists and seeks singers for this year's group. The name is deceptive; don't think that every number will involve pastoral imagery and the words "hey, derry derry." The repertoire this year actually runs toward Gershwin and Lennon/McCartney, with the newly infamous Bread Loaf Fight Song a distinct possibility. Our first meeting and informal rehearsal will take place on Monday in the Barn at 4:45.

Bartels: "I Will Speak To Thee; I'll Call Thee M.Litt."

Associate Director Emily Bartels wishes to meet with all M.Litt. students and anyone interested in the program on Monday at 5 in the Blue Parlor. No word on whether she'll also want to discuss recent developments on *The Osbournes* or *Baby Bob*, but don't bet against it.

Things Go Bump, Set, Spike in the Night

Anyone interested in getting together a casual game of volleyball should head out to the newly mown courts tonight after dinner; the *Crumb* takes it on faith that someone will have the forethought to procure, and bring, a ball.

Chew On This

Inn- and Book-keeper Ed Brown joyfully reports that the first shipments of food have arrived in the now misnamed Bookstore. By the time you read this publication, however, they'll be closed for the weekend, but will reopen on Monday at 8:30 to peddle their supplies from the fine people at Pepperidge Farm and Frito-Lay.

Tennis In Good Shape

For the second consecutive day, the *Crumb* Bum announces the beginning of signups for this year's Wimbleloaf tennis tournament. Unlike yesterday, however, today he will actually post said signup sheets on the bulletin board outside the Dining Hall. Depending on levels of interest, as many as five separate tournaments may run concurrently: men's and women's singles as well as men's, women's, and mixed doubles.

Families In Luck with Potluck

Jumi Kim reminds Bread Loafers living off campus with their families that she will be hosting a potluck supper at her lakeside cabin on Monday at 5:30. Give her a ring at (802) 247-5050 to let her know whether you'll be there and what you'll bring.

Crumb Bum Not Bummed

The *Crumb* is a weekday publication only, so you'll have to keep abreast of breaking campus news yourself over the next couple of days. (Your humble *Crumb* Bum is grateful for the respite, as he's at a really, really scary point in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* and will brook no interruption.)

Ahead Waiter

Responses to yesterday's trivia question came quickly, copiously, and (fortunately) accurately. Headwaiter Lea Kelley was the first person to guess Ernest Hemingway as the self-proclaimed bastard, so she gets special mention (as if having your name in the *Crumb* for four consecutive issues, no matter how incorrectly spelled, isn't enough). Kudos also to Ryan Lutz, Susan Wells, Christie Beveridge, Shauna Turnbull, Andy Pederson, Carole Marshall, and Cornwall nurse Sandy Brutkoski. Today's question gives you some chronological context but little else; perhaps a headline will yield the crucial clue? Give your answers to Jon Freeman via PO Box, BreadNet, or word of mouth.

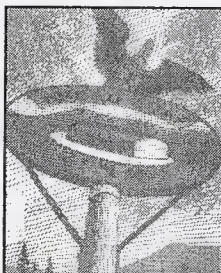
Usual Suspects Top Top Ten List

Other dorms, don't say I didn't warn you. The Men of Annex rose to the occasion, submitting a long list of worthy Top Ten responses and jumping out to their customary lead, although fine efforts from other sources make things intriguingly competitive, at least for the time being. Perhaps reading the collective output of this week's contributors will spur the Ladies of Larch, Guys of Gilmore, and other constituencies to join the fray next week. But for now, here it is:

Top 10 (Or So) Signs That You're The Admissions Office's One Mistake

- 14A. No tree even tries to talk to you. (CR)
- 14B. Old Piney starts whispering to you. (WS)
13. You keep confusing King Lear and Tim Lear. (MOA)
12. Your work study assignment is staffing the tea shack by the tennis court. (WS)
11. You've been put in SARS quarantine even though you answered No to every item on the questionnaire. (DA)
10. Ed Brown refuses to take your picture, claiming that the lens fogs every time you walk by. (CR, WS)
9. You think hermeneutics is the study of "The Munsters." (MOA)
8. You try to get a date with this hot Cather chick. (D)
7. You thought you'd be discussing the tension between Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock in your "Meaning of Space" class. (MOA)
6. You grossly misunderstand the meaning of "High Table" at Oxford. (MOA)
5. You can only add "Mel Gibson is dreamy" to any discussion of *Hamlet*. (MOA)
4. You go to this great big classroom in the Barn and wonder why class never starts. (D)
3. Jim Maddox has reminded you of your pledge not to speak English during the session. (DA)
2. You workshop "There once was a man from Nantucket" in your poetry writing class. (MOA)
1. Even David Huddle won't play tennis with you. (WS)

The scores so far: Men of Annex (MOA) 5; Waitstaff (WS) 4; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Director's Assistants (DA) 2.



ODDS & ENDS

Which writer was stabbed by a pimp in Paris, expressed more concern over the condition of his coat than of the condition of his body, and had his resulting hospital expenses paid by James Joyce?

SCHEDULE

4:45

Madrigalists
Barn

7:30

Yoga Meeting
Inn Side Porch

Tomorrow

12:30

All-School Photo
Across 125

7:30

Drew Lecture
Little Theatre

MENU

Marinated char-broiled red snapper or assorted bean and artichoke gratin; arborio rice with black pepper sauce; spinach, mushroom, pepper and fennel sauté; dessert's a surprise.

WEATHER

Today

Patchy fog.
High 80, low 57.

Tomorrow

Partly sunny.
High 80, low 55.

Wednesday

More sun & clouds.
High 83, low 57.

THE INCRUMBINATOR

"Which of you will stop the vent of hearing when loud Rumour speaks?"

Volume 84, Number 5

Monday, June 30, 2003

M.Litt. Meeting Moved

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Emily Bartels will not be able to attend the M.Litt. meeting originally scheduled for 5:00 this afternoon. The meeting will be rescheduled; keep an eye on future *Crumbs* for details.

THE INCRUMBINATOR IS WATCHING YOU!!!

No doubt you've spent the past week immersing yourself in Bread Loaf – meeting old friends, diving into your coursework, attending meals and receptions and films and Square Dances – all the while unaware that you have been doing so under the watchful eye of the *InCRUMBinator*. The *InCRUMBinator* saw who left the Square Dance with whom. The *InCRUMBinator* overhears conversations at the Faculty Table. The *InCRUMBinator* knows who took the last spoonful of blueberries – which the *InCRUMBinator* really wanted – from the salad bar at breakfast today. Read on to hear these and other secrets revealed...if you dare...

MOUNTAIN TERRORIZED BY UNMANNED GHOST BIKES

Caretaker Leo Hotte implores you to keep all bicycles under close supervision – locked only to the bike rack outside the Inn or safely stowed in your own room – lest bewitched, improperly secured cycles riderlessly roam the environs. The ghost cycles have forced joggers perilously close to the guardrail on 125, left tire prints in the tennis courts, and knocked over a nine-year-old's makeshift lemonade stand in East Middlebury; the only way to stop this reign of terror is through your diligent efforts to keep them secure and off of porches and fire escapes.

DISEMBODIED VOICES EMANATING FROM BARN

OK, so they're only disembodied voices as long as you don't actually enter the Barn; if you do so between 4:45 and 5:45 this afternoon, you'll encounter the first rehearsal of the Bread Loaf Madrigalists. All singers – be you a choir veteran or just the star of your resonant shower stall – are invited to attend. Jon Freeman will answer any questions you may have about the group.

ALL-SCHOOL PHOTO ALSO LARGE-SCALE DISTRACTION

The All-School Photo will be held tomorrow at 12:30 in the field across 125 from the Inn. You should know, however, that Ed's attempts at crowd organization and humor exist merely to cover up the UFO landing on the Ultimate Frisbee field to commune with its Earthly ambassador (a certain professor whose identity I choose to protect) and pick up a year's supply of maple syrup (unavailable on Zygmon). Faculty and staff should congregate after lunch tomorrow for their photo.

ALUM'S PRINTS FOUND ALL OVER LIBRARY WALL

Next time you're in the library, look for the Jamie Wyeth print of Adirondack chairs on the north wall of the front room. The print is only the latest of several donations made to the school by Bread Loaf alum and current librarian Brent Goeres; we're grateful to have such a devoted and generous friend among us.

"SUPER-STUDENT" ENROLLED IN SEVEN COURSES!!

Fully intending to complete the M.A. program in two summers, Hippolyta UMBERBRIDGE is currently enrolled in seven classes – three of which meet at the same time! Perpetually ensconced in a special padded study carrel, you likely won't see much of Hippy, as her Herculean labors naturally impinge on her ability to partake of other aspects of the Bread Loaf experiences, such as eating and sleeping. Anyone else interested in accelerating their course of study by adding a course, retreating from excessive ambition by dropping one, or addressing dissatisfaction by dropping one and adding another should see Elaine by **Wednesday**, at which point your course selections will become irreversible and irrevocable.

GODOT MISSES FLIGHT, STRANDED IN DENVER AIRPORT

MULDOON ALSO TO RECEIVE NANCY DREW MEMORIAL AWARD FOR AMATEUR DETECTIVE WORK

First, however, he will give the Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture tomorrow evening at 7:30 in the Little Theatre. Mr. Muldoon has titled his address "The Literary Life": Hughes, Plath, Moore." The Drew Lecture is invariably one of the summer's high points, and having a beloved member of the Bread Loaf faculty deliver the address makes the occasion doubly worthwhile.

THUNDERSTORM PORTENDS DOOM FOR REDECORATORS

Are not you moved, when all the sway of earth
Shakes like a thing unfirm? O Loafers,
I have seen tempests, when the scolding winds
Have broke the Johnson dam, and I have seen
The thunderclap destroy unsaved work
And mortify the Apple Cellar horde.
But never till last night, never till now,
Did I go through a tempest dropping fire.
Either there is a civil strife in heaven,
Or else the students, too saucy with the pines,
Incense them to deliver us destruction
For bringing indoor furniture out
Or non-weather-treated porch chairs onto grass.
When these occurrences
Do so conjointly meet, let not men say
"The chairs are fine outside; it's just a storm"
For, I believe that they will flake and rot
And beg you to restore them to their place.

NEW SHAKESPEARE DIET DRAWS RAVE REVIEWS

SIR JOHN FALSTAFF: "DO I NOT BATE? DO I NOT DWINDLE?"

SIR TOBY BELCH: "NO MORE CAKES AND ALE!"

TAMORA THE GOTH: "I ATE MY OWN CHILDREN AND STILL LOST 17 POUNDS!"

ELVIS ATTENDS POTLUCK—AND BRINGS CASSEROLE!

The King's "Tuna Bean Surprise" would go well with the salads, desserts, and other fixins off-campus families will be bringing to Jumi Kim's potluck supper this evening at 5:30. Call Jumi at (802) 247-5050 to RSVP, ask for directions, and add your contribution to the menu. And in case you're aiming to please a certain potential visitor, according to *The Presley Family Cookbook* Elvis's favorite foods include Ham Bone Dumplings and Sweet Potato & Apple Pudding.

"I WAS A GODDESS' DONKEY-BOY LOVE SLAVE!"

TRUE STORIES OF THE ATHENIAN WOODS, PAGE A6.

NOSTRADAMUS PREDICTED YOGA SESSION—IN 1542!!

"Heavenly Bodies Will Move Unpredictably" were his actual words, which is basically the same thing as saying that anyone interested in starting a regular yoga class should meet on Monday at 7:30 on the side porch of the Inn. Trained yoga teachers are particularly encouraged to come.

PERSISTENT POETRY SQUAD CRACKS MYSTERIES OF VERSE

Fresh from the success they had in strongarming Fra Pandolf into incriminating the Duke in the "Lost Duchess" case, Caroline Eisner and selected students turn their energies to the Academy of American Poets' Online Poetry Classroom Workshop, to be held at Bread Loaf on Saturday, July 12. In the daylong seminar, students will explore how to use new teaching technology to engage students in creative ways, examine curriculum plans developed by other Teaching Fellows in the program, and begin designing plans of their own with the assistance of curricular and technological advisors. Students who participated last year are welcome to attend again; anyone interested in this exciting opportunity should sign up outside the Dining Hall.

WHAT'S BURIED BENEATH THAT THIRD TENNIS COURT?

We asked Leo once, and he responded by pointing to the mini-steamroller used to smooth the courts each morning and saying, "That can crush lots of other things too, if you know what I mean." No problem, we told Leo; two courts is plenty for Wimbleloaf. Signups continue through Wednesday and the draws posted by this weekend; racquetters should put their names down and find doubles partners soon!

CHAINSAW-ACCIDENT NEGLIGENCE DEFENDANTS EXPLAIN "BECAUSE WE WERE NOT THE ONE DEAD, WE TURNED TO OUR AFFAIRS"; JURY TO DECIDE FATE

MOOSE SIGHTINGS INCREASE; EXPERTS CONCERNED

Lea Kelley and Thomas Forteith record the first moose sighting of the summer, having spotted a female in the area around the Snow Bowl. Kurt and Maggie also alert the community to a recent spate of small-animal breaking and entering with intent to nibble on tasty treats unwisely left accessible. They urge you to buy airtight containers and store your goodies more securely; if the moose are appearing because they've heard from the squirrels about what a treasure trove this is, you could return to your room to find a very large ruminant rooting through your Chee-Tos.

HAVISHAM JILTED ON WEDDING DAY, BUT STILL HOPEFUL

8 WAYS TO MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN AT YOUR WEDDING, PAGE 49.

SOME QUESTION REPORTS, DOUBT MOOSE EXISTENCE

The *Crumb* Bum, annually assailed with reports of others' moose sightings without having seen any such creature in his seven summers on the Mountain, has officially and logically concluded that moose simply do not exist, that the reliability of the purported "witnesses" is severely compromised by their failure (although they call it "sensible refusal") to present in their defense photographs of themselves standing next to the alleged moose. All future claims will be met with obdurate disbelief.

MYSTERY MAIL ARRIVES DAILY AT FRONT DESK

The Front Desk is mystified by a large quantity of mail arriving for Lee Manion, of whom there is no record. If you are this person, know this person, or have any information regarding the proper course of action regarding his or her mail, please talk to Victoria at the Front Desk.

CARNIVAL CRUISES SCRAPS PLANS FOR "HEART OF DARKNESS" UPRIVER JOURNEY

DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANTS OFFER TIME TRAVEL

But you can only go backwards fifty years and then gradually return to the present, and only if you're in the Barn this Saturday from 9 to 1. That's when the second annual Time Warp Barn Dance takes place. We'll kick off the music with "Rock Around the Clock" at 9:00 sharp and move forward through the years as the evening progresses; look for the ceremonial activation of the disco ball sometime around 10:27 (1975) and for the fleeting but memorable career of Right Said Fred from 12:04-12:07 (1992).

MADDOX'S FACE APPEARS IN ICING OF CINNAMON DANISH

BUT CONSUMED BY HUNGRY WAITER BEFORE PILGRIMS ASSEMBLE. PAGE A12.

SECRETS OF THE MEN OF ANNEX

Actually, let's not pry too deeply into the reasons the MOA regularly dominate the Top Ten lists, lest we also discover groundwork being laid for a 2004 Men of Annex calendar or reveal that they've simply been bullying David Huddle into providing them with witty responses. Instead, let's move on to this week's Top Ten topic, inspired by Drew Lecturer Paul Muldoon's other recent accolade:

Top Ten Perks That Come With Winning the Pulitzer
Submissions due to the *Crumb* mailbox by 11 AM Friday.

WILL SCARCITY OF ANSWERS END GAME OF QUOTE-GUESSING?

Only Liz Bedell correctly spied Alfred, Lord Tennyson in the headline "Tennis In Good Shape." You may be able to make an educated guess at today's writer by the chronological and geographical context of the question—or you might want to spot the titles of **two** of his famous works couched in headlines somewhere in this issue...



THE CRUMB

"A sign of mental decay in the young"
-Lady Bracknell

Volume 84, Number 6

Tuesday, July 1, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

This author's gambling debts drove him to attempt suicide in 1878. The bullet missed his heart, however, and he survived - after which point he embarked on his successful career as a novelist. Who is he?

SCHEDULE

12:30
All-School Photo
Across from Inn

1:30
Faculty & Staff
Photos
Inn Porch

7:30
Drew Lecture
Little Theatre

MENU

Roast leg of lamb or red lentils with a potpourri of vegetables in red wine sauce; spanikopita with tomato sauce; red roasted parsley potatoes; peas & carrots; blueberry pie for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Partly sunny.
High 83, low 58.

Tomorrow
Continued partly sunny.
High 83, low 63.

Thursday
More of the same, but who's complaining?
High 88, low 63.

Birthday Wishes for Paul; Birthday Letters for Us

One day after being serenaded with "Happy Birthday" by the waitstaff, Paul Muldoon will deliver the 2003 Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecture, "'A Literary Life': Hughes, Plath, Moore," at 7:30 in the Burgess Meredith Little Theatre. Renowned in these parts for (among other things) his rhymed haiku of chipmunks and fireflies at the Homer Noble Farm, Paul tonight turns his gaze to three poetic giants of the past century - so those who attend will hear the 2003 Pulitzer winner, who lives at the home of the 1924, 1931, 1937, and 1943 Pulitzer winner, discuss the 1952 and 1982 winners. It promises to be a memorable evening.

Drop By Office To Drop or Add

For those still contemplating changes to their course loads, a reminder to see Elaine by tomorrow at 5. After that point, neither sweet talking nor fruit baskets will persuade her to make alterations to your enrollment information; in fact, attempts to persuade her to bend the rules for you will only result in her placing you without your knowledge in "Books to Bench-Press: The Extremely Long Novels of Victorian England."

Look Positive to Make Great Negative

Ed Brown was spotted yesterday evening practicing for today's All-School Photo (if you're reading this before lunch, you're probably missing it) by posing a group of Adirondack chairs by the stone wall across from the Inn. The chairs present nowhere near the photographic challenge of the amoebic, jabbering mass that is the assembled Bread Loaf community, but Ed will try his best to maintain order and get you to lunch on time. After lunch, the faculty and staff should linger on the Inn porch so that Ed may take their pictures, risking death by having to stand smack in the middle of 125 in order to get everyone into the frame. Tomorrow it's BLTN's turn before lunch.

Exchange Expert Explains Exceptionally

Vivian Axiotis, a BLTN teacher from Ohio, will be here for the next two weeks sharing what she knows about online exchanges. She would like to meet with new fellows in groups of four in the upstairs library conference room. The hour-long meetings began this morning and will continue throughout Vivian's visit. There is a sign up sheet on the door of the conference room facing the library on the third floor. Please go there and sign up ASAP.

Be Mr. T

And not for Suppressed Desires, either. We need a custom-designed 2003 Bread Loaf T-shirt, and we need it fast, so that they can be flying off of Bookstore shelves by the end of the summer. Submit your design to Kurt or Maggie, or leave it at the Front Desk, by Sunday. All designs must include the words "Bread Loaf School of English" or "BLSE" and be in one or two colors with clear, camera-ready lines; a cash prize and campus-wide fame await the winner, if those kinds of things make any difference to you.

Strong Sentiments on Important Issues

Jonathan Strong writes: "Imagine you're a seventh grader whose classmates, whenever they disapprove of something, say, 'That's so gay!' Imagine you're a high schooler who reads in the newspaper that the majority leader of the U.S. Senate is concerned, after the 'sodomy' laws were thrown out, that 'criminal activity within the home would in some way be condoned.' Imagine you're struggling with your own sexual identity. Now imagine you're a teacher of such a student - no, you don't have to imagine: if you teach, you ARE his or her teacher. We'd love to have more people join us to discuss issues that affect ALL of us. At our first meeting we heard from Bread Loafers with a wide range of experiences. What's it like at your school? What's it like for you, as a gay person or as an ally? Or as a potential ally? You don't have to be gay to help out. We need everybody. We would like to host a panel discussion later in July - come help us plan it. And what can we do to make Bread Loaf itself a more inclusive place? Believe it or not, some people HERE find it hard to feel comfortable being themselves. Let's meet tomorrow evening at 9 in the Blue Parlor."

Tavern Now On Green

Those of you invited to tomorrow's Director's Reception should be aware that the festivities will not take place at Treman, as is customary, but in the Blue Parlor and on the West Lawn of the Inn. Please enter through the Blue Parlor, as the lawn will be enclosed by - you guessed it - the blue silken cord that you've seen at every Bread Loaf function thus far. (Think of it not as our way of penning you in, but of keeping the rabble out.)

Get Well Versed in Online Poetry Class

The Academy of American Poets invites all Bread Loaf students to attend a one-day workshop on Saturday, July 12 to explore the Online Poetry Classroom and contemplate new and exciting ways of incorporating poetry into their classrooms at home. Participants will attend a seminar led by a poet and educator and design plans of their own, assisted by curricular and technological advisors; they will also have the opportunity, in the weeks following the workshop, to submit proposals to receive stipends for developing curriculum plans over the course of the academic year. See Caroline Eisner in the Apple Cellar if you have any questions; the signup sheet (yes, space is limited) is posted outside the Dining Hall.

Community Feeling Odd Rush

An anonymous source requests that drivers take it nice and slow exiting the main driveway between Cherry and the Annex - with all the kids and bikes and pedestrians and cars that cross that path, caution is a must. Besides, the *Crumb* Bum can't think of a single compelling reason for anyone to want to leave Bread Loaf hastily.

Racquetearing Fills Up Courts

Tomorrow's the last day to sign up for Wimbleloaf - and some of the categories (men's doubles, mixed doubles) could use a little filling out. Bear in mind that Wimbleloaf has a long and storied past, and as it is our duty to honor its traditions, please be aware of the following tournament rules:

- All competitors must bow or curtsy to the "royal box" (pair of Adirondack chairs next to the courts) before and after each match, no matter whether the chairs are occupied at the time.
- Swear only in foreign languages the chair umpire doesn't recognize.
- Attempt to replace calls of "nice" and "good shot" with more sophisticated, graduate-level vocabulary, such as "Deft!" or "Ungentlemanly!"

Tangled Up In Blue

Justin Morrill marveled at the huge crowd that turned out for this summer's inaugural Blue Parlor readings on Sunday, calling the evening an "overwhelming success." Continued overflow crowds may necessitate the construction of an adjoining Parlor - perhaps in red? - and then a third, and a fourth, lending the west side of the Inn a resemblance to the mansion in "The Masque of the Red Death." Fortunately for now, the spacious CyberBlueParlor can accommodate everyone, from those who prefer not to read in front of an audience to those who can't find a free Sunday night to those who'd just like preliminary feedback for their work. A few open slots still remain on the signup sheet at the Front Desk, so get your name down before it's too late.

BLTN Expands Its Reach

It's huge and fabulous, and it just got bigger. Tom McKenna asks that students please excuse the rearranging of the 3rd floor library conference room this summer. Half of it will be reserved for BLTN training and presentations, as well as the work of students in "Writing to Make a Difference." You are welcome to use the remainder of the room when classes or presentations are not in session. Please check the schedule posted on the door.

He'll Take You To Town, Then Take You To School

Jonathan Coulombe asks that anyone interested in playing basketball should hustle down to Pepin Gym in Middlebury by 7-7:15 (a convenient pre-Gilmore calorie-burning opportunity). Anyone who needs a ride down there can e-mail Jonathan, who'll figure it out.

Frost In Forecast This Weekend

The annual Robert Frost Picnic will be held this Saturday at 6:00 at the Homer Noble Farm. You can get there on one of the shuttles will leave the Inn every ten minutes or so beginning at 5:20, you can park in the Frost rest area on 125 and hike the rest of the way, or you can walk the whole way without too much trouble (it's probably a little over a mile each way). Mark Wright will lead tours of the Frost Cabin beginning at 5:30 for serious scholars bent on reading meaning into Frost's preferred brand of baking powder or linking the cantankerous voice of certain of his poems to the problematic *feng shui* of his living room.

Play With Your Food

Now you can buy a copy of *Arcadia* in the Bookstore to go with that box of Mint Milanos you plan to scarf down in one sitting. Ed also advertises the Bookstore's supply of Vermont-related texts, drawing special attention to *Vermont Unveiled*, which appears to be a guide to local swimming holes where, um, your birthday suit can be your bathing suit.

Jim Lords It Over Assistants,

Claiming "Victory is the Only Option"

There's a new horse in the Top 10 race, the team of Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ), first out of the gate with a passel of perceived perks for Pulitzer winners. The Front Desk promises to enter the fray this week. The Directors and the Director's Assistants, locked in a fierce third-place tie, maintain only the thinnest veneer of cordiality in our daily staff meeting; Jim has already decreed that his Friday morning schedule be completely cleared for a three-hour, closed-door meeting with Emily to polish their list. Take heed, Men of Annex! Get with the program, Guys of Gilmore! Get your **Top Ten Perks That Come With Winning the Pulitzer** to Jon Freeman by Friday at 11 AM for publication in that day's *Crumb*.

The Man Who Knows Too Much...

...and tells too little. Professor Jonathan Freedman will lead a film viewing and discussion tomorrow evening in Barn 1 beginning at 7:00, but he's not saying which of his many favorite films he'll be bringing. So you could be in for a real classic, like *The Searchers*, or he might just grab something from his children's collection, like *Elmo Visits the Clumsy Dentist*. But if you like a good movie and a good surprise, feel free to show up.

Film Not Fit For Few

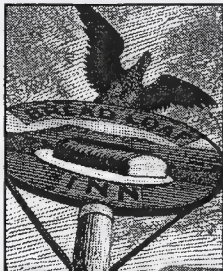
The *Crumb* can be much more forthcoming, however, about this Friday's Barn film. It'll be *Mulholland Drive*, and showtime will be 9:00. As usual, Kurt and Maggie will gladly give you all the popcorn you want. Ever protective of the innocence of young minds in our midst, the *Crumb* warns that as *Mulholland Drive* contains violence, language, and strong sexuality, it may be inappropriate for children, especially puritanical folk, or Emily Dickinson.

Let's Do The Time Warp Again

Hailed as a huge success in its first incarnation last year, the Time Warp Barn Dance makes its return this Saturday from 9 to 1. DJ Jon Freeman is currently ascertaining the release date of each song on the planned playlist in order to adhere to the strict chronological order that governs our journey from the Twist to the Hustle to (shudder) the Macarena.

Sam I Am

One could cast several full production of *Endgame*, with understudies, with the gaggle of people who identified Samuel Beckett as the pimp-stabbed, coat-obsessed, Joyce-funded author: Sean McCarthy, Ed Brown, Susan Wells, Andrew Pederson, Amy Chappnis, Micki Kaplan, Jim Maddox, Chris Hutchinson, Kurt Broderson, Mark Valentine, Liz Bedell, Laurie Clark, and Peter Clark. I'd get all huffy and say that never again will I be so generous as to include **two** works by the mystery author in the headlines, except, to paraphrase Kevin Spacey in *Se7en*, "I've gone and done it again." Happy hunting.



THE CRUMB

*"If the matter of this paper be certain,
you have mighty business in hand"*
— Edmund the Bastard

Volume 84, Number 7

Wednesday, July 2, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

*Which writer
received a pitcher
of wine every day
as one of the
perks of being
poet laureate?*

SCHEDULE

12:30
BLTN Photo
Inn Porch

5:00
Add/Drop Deadline
Office

5:00
Director's Reception
Blue Parlor/W. Lawn

7:00
Mystery Film
Barn 1

7:00
Ultimate
Field

9:00
Sexual Orientation
Issues in Education
Blue Parlor

MENU

Tricolor pasta with
or without Italian
sausage, peppers,
and onions; pierogies
with cheese sauce;
turnips, parsnips, and
Romano bean sauté;
apple crisp with ice
cream for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Mostly sunny.
High 83, low 62.

Tomorrow
Beautiful.
High 88, low 63.

Fourth of July
Flawless.
High 88, low 65.

Help Make Your Schools Safe – Come Discuss Issues of Orientation in Education

Jonathan Strong urges all members of the Bread Loaf community interested in talking about a variety of issues pertaining to sexual orientation and education to join him this evening at 9 in the Blue Parlor. Jonathan would like to plan a panel discussion later in the summer, but wants to hear from you on any topic: What problems and solutions have you seen at your school? What is it like to be a gay person (or an ally) at your school or at Bread Loaf? Most importantly, what can we do to make our worlds more understanding, open, and inclusive?

Workshop Prologue To Bigger Things

Students who attend the July 12 Online Poetry Workshop will not only receive a day of instruction and guidance in developing exciting and original ways to bring poetry into their classrooms - they will also be able to apply for stipends to support continued development of curricular plans. Space is limited, so sign up on the bulletin board outside the Dining Hall soon. Caroline Eisner can answer any questions you have about this promising seminar.

Night Of A Thousand Dances

Or however many we can fit into the four hours of Saturday's Time Warp dance, which starts at 9 in the Barn. Sock-hoppers should come early and mosh-pitters should stay late, as the music marches forward through time (with extended stops in the Golden Ages of disco and synthesizer-heavy 80's dance) as the night progresses.

Don't Mill Around, BLTN

If you're a BLTN member reading this while waiting for lunch to begin, Ed is probably making cruel jokes at your expense out on the porch, where the group photo you're supposed to be in is taking place without you right now (at 12:30, that is). Also, new fellows are reminded to sign up to meet with exchange veteran Vivian Axiotis - the appointment schedule is posted on the door of the upstairs library conference room. Lastly, advance notice of a full BLTN meeting tomorrow evening from 7-9 in Barn 1, where Vivian and Caroline Eisner will show everyone how and why BLTN teachers develop exchanges.

Re: Evenings of Foreign Film

The Middlebury College Language Schools' International Film Festival is already underway, screening a different international masterpiece each weekend. The next feature, to be shown Saturday night, is Hayao Miyazaki's masterpiece *Spirited Away*, winner of the 2003 Academy Award for Best Animated Feature, followed by *The Lady and the Duke* (France) on July 12, *Nowhere in Africa* (Germany) on July 19, *Talk to Her* (Spain) on July 26, and *His Secret Life* (France/Italy) on August 2. Festival brochures are available at the Front Desk. All films are subtitled in English and shown at 7 and 9:30 Saturday evenings. Please remember, however, to refrain from using English at the screenings out of respect for the students observing the Language Pledge. You may be consoled by the fact that impenetrable academic jargon ("tropes of metacognition in oblique palimpsestic decontextualizing") has been known to pass as a foreign tongue.

Cookout Out at "Out, Out-" Poet's Outpost

That'd be the Frost Picnic, scheduled for this Saturday at 6:00 at the Homer Noble Farm, located up the dirt road just east of the Robert Frost Wayside. Walk, drive, or be shuttled there - vans will depart the Front Desk at regular intervals beginning at 5:00. Mark Wright has graciously agreed to provide tours of the Frost Cabin starting at 5:15, and although the building's been combed over pretty thoroughly for anything of archival value, Mark has on occasion been shocked - *shocked!* - to discover heretofore unknown manuscript pages (including, surprisingly enough, the outline of what eventually became *Mork & Mindy*) while giving these tours.

Afternoon Reception Moved, As Director Is Man of Lawful Intent

A legal technicality has forced the relocation of this and next week's Director's Receptions from their usual location, Treman, to the Blue Parlor and the West Lawn. Please enter via the Blue Parlor, as the lawn will be roped off as an area designated for alcohol consumption. Very little else will change - hors d'oeuvres and beverages will still be served and conversations will remain convivial - although whether the legendary Diaphanous Spirit is capable of materializing on the tennis courts instead of in the meadow can only be speculated.

Small Fry Are Not For Friday

Mulholland Drive is David Lynch's latest wild ride, a massive dream sequence including an amnesiac, a dwarf in a wheelchair, drag racing, and - well, not having seen it, the *Crumb* Bum remains thoroughly befuddled by what he's read of it and simply advises those interested to see it for themselves. If the plot summary (assuming there is, in fact, a plot) doesn't persuade you that it wouldn't be appropriate for younger viewers, perhaps knowing that it's rated R for language, violence, and sexual content will. The film begins at 9 on Friday; popcorn is provided, but it's bring or buy your own beverages.

Can't Summon Her Fashion Muse

Maggie Favretti complains that it just wouldn't be Bread Loaf without a T-shirt capturing the magic, or the wit, or the unremitting insect life of this place - but she can't come up with a neat idea for the T-Shirt Design Competition, there are only four days remaining until the deadline, and no one's turned in a proposal to her, Kurt, or the Front Desk. Remember that submissions must include the words "BLSE" or "Bread Loaf," be in clear, camera-ready lines, and contain one or two colors.

Campus Merchant Plies Wares

For the umpteenth time, Ed Brown reminds everyone of the Bookstore's foray into the snack-food business and of the wide variety of other supplies on hand for easy purchase. Why not satisfy your thirst while reading *Drown* (\$13) by decanting a bottle of North Country spring water (\$.49) into your Middlebury College Nalgene bottle (\$10.95)? Besides, Ed (\$2.98) could use the business - there's been talk of an all-night Gas-N-Go opening in the Cather Tea Cabin, which I fear could drive the Bookstore under...

Throng Helps Choir

A huge turnout of skilled singers on Monday made the Madrigalists sound glorious - but that's not to say we wouldn't welcome some more voices to join us for our rehearsal tomorrow afternoon. We'll meet at 5 in the Barn (afternoon classgoers, get there when you can) and disperse in time for dinner.

Stuff Ranklin' Inn Resident

A reminder that students are not permitted to smoke in their rooms - and if being against the law isn't bad enough, the smell is wafting through the air to the displeasure of neighbors, including one ex-smoker who wrote the *Crumb* lamenting the "WICKED JONZ!!!" contracted from unwanted whiffs of secondhand smoke. Please limit your smoking to areas where there is little risk of inconveniencing others.

Physician Not Needed for Warts

The staged reading Abra Chernik's original play *Warts*, an examination of the effects of a sexually transmitted disease on a young woman's life, will not be held on July 22 as published on the original schedule of theatrical events. Instead, the reading will take place next Tuesday, July 8, at 10 PM. Check out upcoming *Crumbs* for further details.

Last Day To Find Doubles Pardner

The *Crumb* has noticed the inexplicable absence from the Wimbleloaf signup sheets of certain faculty and staff who haunt the courts regularly. We shall not name names (yet), but said regulars are reminded that the signups will be taken down after dinner tonight and the draws posted tomorrow - so if they, or anyone else, wants in on this friendly competition, they'd better act faster than a Serena Williams overhead. I've been trying to arrange dinner with Andre Agassi for the eventual winners, but so far the best I've been able to do is a copy of *My Dinner with Andre*.

Prior Estimates Groundless

After no one answered the summer's first trivia question correctly, the *Crumb* Bum was bummed indeed. Now, however, the contest is shaping up to be about a twenty-three horse race, as Liz Bedell, Sean McCarthy, Kurt Broderson, Ed Brown, Andy Pederson, Micki Kaplan, Susan Wells and Jim Maddox correctly identified Joseph Conrad as the unsuccessful suicide. "Jim Lords It Over Director's Assistants" and "Victory Is The Only Option" doubtless provided some help. I can't tell you what kind of clues to look for today, but I can tell you that they're all over the place...

For those keeping score at home (and in order that the Bread Loaf Bookie-store can post official odds), here's the tally thus far: Liz Bedell leads the way with 4 points, Andy Pederson, Kurt Broderson, and Susan Wells each have 3, followed by Micki Kaplan, Sean McCarthy, Ed Brown and Jim Maddox with 2. 12 people have 1 point, leaving approximately 90% of the campus to wallow in the shame of not having gotten a single one of these answers.

Crumb Asks Kind Sir To Pass Along Info

There's going to be a film shown in Barn 1 tonight at 7, but Jonathan Freedman still isn't saying what it'll be. Perhaps he'd provide hints through a game of Twenty Questions - so is it in black and white? Is it a love story? Are there explosions? How about crazed zombies? Does it star the inimitable Steve Guttenberg? (If Jonathan answers "yes" to all of these questions, he's either pulling your leg or has somehow acquired a rare copy of the straight-to-video classic *Police Academy XVII: Exploding Colorless Zombies On the Loose*.)

Can't Monkey With Courses After Today

At 5:00 today, Elaine will whip out her magic wand (hey, there's practical information in those Harry Potter books, if you just know where to look) and Petrify all students' course schedules. After that time there's no adding or dropping courses, so you'd better talk to her pronto if you're contemplating any changes.

None Of The Palazzo's TVs Get HBO

...but surely there are **some** advantages of being a Pulitzer winner? Speculate away - you've still got two days to come up with your best ideas for **Top Ten Perks That Come With Winning the Pulitzer**. We'll publish the best ten (or so) in Friday's *Crumb*, and then we'll run 'em by Paul Muldoon, who'll probably tell us that actually, they don't have any of the *good* Chateau Latours in the club wine cellar, and no one told him you have to polish the Eggo-sized medallion, like, *every day*...

Yo, Man, My Bad

The *Crumb* apologizes for neglecting to mention yesterday that the informal basketball games Jonathan Coulombe is trying to organize will take place on *Thursday* evenings. All those interested should meet at Pepin Gym around 7 or 7:15 tomorrow; contact Jonathan for more info.



THE CRUMB

"It's easy as a sign-
The intuition of the news
In just a country town."

-Emily Dickinson

Volume 84, Number 8

Thursday, July 3, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Which classical writer is reputed to have died when an eagle dropped a tortoise on his head?

SCHEDULE

5:00

Senior Meeting
Blue Parlor

6:00

Bristol Fourth of
July Festivities

7:00-9:00

BLTN
Barn 1

9:00

Gilmore

MENU

Roast beef with brown sauce, tomato, and horseradish; bouillabaisse with French bread slices; zucchini parmesan with tomato sauce; steamed broccoli and leeks; mashed potatoes with garlic; Boston cream pie for dessert.

WEATHER

The *Crumb* would like you to know that it only dutifully prattles back what weather.gov tells it. Which explains today's "forecast."

Third of July:
"Partly sunny"
(like I said...)
high 88, low 63.

Fourth of July:
Chance of t-storms;
high 90, low 67.

Fifth of July:
Chance of t-storms;
high 83, low 63.

Local Fireworks Jump The Gun

Some towns in Vermont get a heads-up on the Fourth by setting off their fireworks tonight. Bristol hosts the most elaborate local festivities – food and craft vendors on the park, kids' games, bingo, and live music. The fun begins at 6:00 and culminates with fireworks shot from the grounds of Mt. Abraham Union High School but visible from several points around Bristol. Tomorrow at 10:30 is Bristol's Fourth of July parade – and as the theme is "Masquerade Ball," it might be a good opportunity to scout out ideas for Suppressed Desires and possible pick up parade-worn costumes on the cheap afterwards.

Other Fire Works, Too

The importance of the recent advent, thanks to natural selection, of the opposable thumb in the curious species *Gilmorus inhabitantus* cannot be overstated. It greatly facilitates the construction and kindling of the weekly bonfire. It enables *Gilmorus inhabitantus* to hold a flashlight for the guest reader with much greater dependability. Most importantly, it is essential for the complex assembly and operation of the "beverage mechanism." And although only the acknowledged alpha male – often one who has demonstrated his supremacy by mastering the use of rudimentary hand tools and/or simple communication skills – is allowed to issue the formal invitation at dinner, it is fairly certain that as a direct consequence of this article, the entire tribe will unite in the ritualistic bludgeoning of the *Crumb* Bum immediately following the reading.

Muldoon Simply Divined

Inspired by the story of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, I went to my own Ouija board, which predicted a **second** Paul Muldoon event, this one a reading Monday at 7:30 in the Barn. He'll switch from interpreting others' works to reading from his own published (and possibly to-be-published) work. The Ouija board also told me that my future involves "Windex and Oslo," and for me to beware "the raisin man"; any community input as to the significance of these odd images is welcomed.

The Kids Aren't Alright

As we plunge into weeks of near-continuous readings and performances, please remember that small children are more likely to be a distraction than not and should accordingly be left at home or otherwise taken care of, not brought to faculty readings or similar events.

Seniors to Select Spokesperson Soon

After a Senior Presidential campaign in which there occurred no debates and no saturation of local TV markets with advertising, and on which the candidates spent a record total of \$4, it's now all up to the voters. The senior class will assemble this evening at 5 in the Blue Parlor to elect their leader; C-Span will be on site in an attempt to be the first to announce who has carried the crucial swing dorms of Tamarack and Brandy Brook. Ed will wander by at 5:45 to take the senior photo.

Campus' Perks Up

The Men of Annex have plenty of challengers to fend off this week, as new contributors to **Top Ten Perks That Come With Winning the Pulitzer** appear daily. The deadline for inclusion in tomorrow's *Crumb* is 11 AM; perhaps on Monday evening, Paul will exercise his Pulitzerian prerogative, simply declare the list a "found poem," and include it in his reading.

BLTN Agenda: Use Mouse, Say Cheese

All BLTN members are reminded of this evening's meeting, from 7-9 in Barn 1, where Caroline and Vivian will demonstrate the manifold uses to which BreadNet exchanges can be put. Ed Brown will also pop in at some point to take the BLTN group photo.

Dazed and Confused

That is *not* the title of Friday's film, but rather the *Crumb* Bum's state of mind as he contemplates attempting once more to describe David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*, which is this Friday's Barn film. This much I'm sure of: 1) It begins at 9:00. 2) It's not appropriate for children. 3) I can have all the popcorn I want. And there's something fishy about the poster, but I can't put my finger on it...

Bob Says "You Come Too Picnic!"

Frost neglected to mention that after cleaning the pasture spring and fetching the little calf, he'd be firing up the grill (not for the little calf, I'm sure) and serving all manner of picnic fare to Bread Loaf this Saturday (weather permitting). Vans will run from the Front Desk beginning at 5; tours of the Frost Cabin will commence at 5:15; the meal starts at 6. Please remember that the picnic is technically a Dining Hall meal, so those not on the meal plan will need to pay at the Front Desk to attend.

Head Downtown For Saturday Film...

Apparently *Spirited Away* has a mostly linear narrative, easily distinguishable characters, and convenient English subtitles, three qualities which immediately qualify it as an antidote to *Mulholland Drive*. You'll have to motor down the Mountain to see it, however; it's this Saturday's feature at the Language Schools' International Film Festival. Showtimes are 7 and 9:30 in Dana Auditorium.

...Or Stay Around For Barn Dance

We contemplated several organizing principles for this week's Barn Dance. We considered an alphabetically arranged play list (Abba, Paula Abdul, then Bryan Adams...) or beginning with the highest-quality music and gradually deteriorating throughout the evening (James Brown, Bee Gees, Wham!, Hanson). But in the end we reverted to last year's theme, the Time Warp. We'll span five decades in four hours, leaving you pondering at the end of the evening how so much about music can have transformed so dramatically since 1955, while Dick Clark remains frighteningly unchanged, apparently having been cryogenically preserved in some unholy way.

Collaboration Ends Collaborative Conflict

Those who have refrained from signing up for the July 12 Academy of American Poets Online Poetry Workshop because of a perceived conflict with a presentation from Nancy Shapiro, head of Teachers & Writers Collaborative, take heart. Nancy's presentation has been rescheduled for that Sunday, July 13, from 9:30-11:30 AM, so you can put your name down for the Poetry Workshop without trepidation.

Mark It Down: Market Downtown

Joe McVeigh writes that the annual St. Stephen's Peasant Market, a fundraiser for local social service agencies, will be held this Saturday from 9 to 3 on the green in downtown Middlebury. According to Joe, the selection is vast and varied: "antiques, used books at bargain prices, 'vintage' clothing, inexpensive dorm room furnishings, sporting goods, musical instruments, pies, plants, toys, games, assorted what-nots and a luncheon cookout with Middlebury College President John McCardell as chef. Be sure to check out the books early before Dixie Goswami gets all the good ones!"

Barn 2 Be Wild (With Anger)

Although the area in front of the Barn seems like a wonderful place to chat with friends as you wait for, or emerge from, your classes, please keep in mind that it's not so great to be in a class in Barn 2, what with all that crowd noise coming through the windows. During class times, please relocate your conversations to the Barn or some other less intrusive location.

Quite A Stretch

As was announced at lunch yesterday, yoga will meet from 5-6 on Monday-Thursday and 2-4 on Friday. The first guided class will take place this afternoon at 5. Meetings are open to all abilities and are tentatively scheduled for Barn 2, although previously scheduled events may dictate a change of venue. Attendees will take turns leading classes, and a signup sheet has been posted outside the Dining Hall to facilitate that aspect of the logistics.

Massage Melancholia

Sadly, there will not be massage therapists visiting campus this summer, as has been the custom in previous years. Greater Middlebury, thankfully, lacks little in the way of alternative medicine choices – an exhaustive list of local therapists and body workers has been posted outside the Dining Hall.

Can't Bury Tales Well Enough

Kurt Broderson, Liz Bedell, Susan Wells, Micki Kaplan, Sean McCarthy, Andy Pederson, Mark Valentine, and Jim Maddox all found various pilgrims hiding in each of yesterday's headlines and correctly named Geoffrey Chaucer as the answer to yesterday's question. For pointing out that Chaucer really received the wine for his services as a tax collector, not as Poet Laureate, John Fyler either receives two points or none whatsoever; the *Crumb* Bum is still trying to decide whether he's grateful for the correction or annoyed at having his own inaccuracies paraded before him.



THE AMERICRUMB

"The power of the newspaper is familiar in America."
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Volume 84, Number 9

Friday, July 4, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

One President was swimming off the Massachusetts coast when a member of his party suggested to a friend that they also go in. "Better wait," the neighbor replied. "The President is using the ocean." Which President?

SCHEDULE

Today
Mulholland Drive
9, Barn

Saturday
Time Warp
9, Barn

Sunday
Softball 2:00, Field
Ultimate 4:00, Field

Frost Picnic
5, Homer Noble Farm

Blue Parlor Rdngs.
7:30, Blue Parlor

Mr. & Mrs. Jones
9:30, Theatre

MENU

Grilled pork chops with applesauce; eggplant & mushroom pasticcio; tomato salad with fresh mozzarella and summer basil; butternut squash and turnip sauté; focaccia; white chocolate mousse for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Chance of T-storms.
High 88, low 65.

Tomorrow
Same as today.
High 85, low 62.

Sunday
Sunny (and chilly at night!).
High 80, low 53.

Hoover Thought of This is Nuts

Instead of embarking on the fool's errand of trying to describe *Mulholland Drive* without ever having seen it, the *Crumb* Bum chooses instead to rely on an Amazon.com "Top 500" reviewer's take:

"Who were those two guys at the restaurant? And what the heck did they just see in the back alley? And who the heck are the Castigliane brothers, and what do they have against espresso? Who is that? Is she still Betty? Is she still Rita? Is this all a dream? An amnesiacal remembrance?"

The Bum hopes that this excerpt will both entice you to attend the showing at 9 this evening in the Barn and exculpate himself from charges that he failed to provide an adequate sense of the plot in previous issues. Remember that *Mulholland Drive* is inappropriate for children (and, it would seem, for the easily disoriented).

Jacksons Featured Regularly in Dance

In their various incarnations, they'll keep popping up as we traverse the rock era tomorrow evening at the Time Warp dance, beginning at 9 in the Barn. Sometime around 10:00, we'll hit the early 70's and encounter the Jackson 5 (still deciding whether to play "ABC" or "The Love You Save"), Michael's solo career will no doubt be well represented in the 80's section of the evening, and when the danceability of Michael's music fades in the early 90's, Janet's there to pick up where he left off. Lamentably, economies of time and proprieties of taste likely forbid the inclusion in tomorrow's playlist of lesser siblings Jermaine ("Let Me Tickle Your Fancy," 1982) or Rebbie ("Centipede," 1984).

Kurt Questions Age of Female Student, Asks Maggie to Carter

Remember to tote your ID to tomorrow's Barn Dance, as one of the Assistants will be there to equip you with a sparkly hospital-style bracelet that identifies you as suds-worthy. Remember also that the blue ropes will be up, so keep beverages within what we'll call the Time Capsule.

Picnic Date Changes to Sunday; College Grants Use of Chair

As the weather forecast has consistently predicted thunderstorms for Saturday afternoon and radiant sunshine after that, the Frost Picnic has been rescheduled for Sunday afternoon. Shuttle vans leave the Front Desk beginning at 5, tours of the Frost Cabin commence at the same time, and the buffet line opens at 6. Mark Wright has magically managed to borrow Frost's writing chair, normally kept in a hermetically sealed, climate-controlled vault in an undisclosed location on the Middlebury campus; it'll be on display during the Frost Cabin tours. No one will be allowed to touch the chair, although members of the Muldoon and Huddle Poetry Writing classes will be allowed to place their hands and/or head within the invisible halo of Euterpean inspiration that extends in a three-foot radius from the chair's seat.

Arthur Better Bargains Anywhere?

The St. Stephen's Peasant Market, taking place on the Middlebury green tomorrow from 9 to 3, is the place to be for smart shoppers. The selection includes used books, vintage clothing, baked goods, antiques, knickknacks, bric-a-brac, whatnots, doodads, gewgaws, bibelots, gadgets, and other thingamajigs; there's also a cookout lunch featuring celebrity chef and Gondwanalandian scholar John McCardell. All proceeds benefit local social service agencies.

Wilson One Stop These Horrible Puns?

The Peasant Market is only the opening event in Middlebury's Festival On-the-Green, running all next week. The Festival features daily noontime entertainment for youngsters and nightly music in a variety of styles from local groups. Everything's free, too! A full schedule will appear in Monday's *Crumb*, but you can visit www.festivalonthegreen.com for more details.

Leo Launches One Into Bushes

Anyone interested in playing a little softball should congregate in the field at 2 this Sunday. If you catch a long fly ball that Leo hits, he probably won't imitate Robert Frost and pursue you on foot, brandishing his bat and shouting "You bastard! You bastard!" He'd probably just use the Gator. Ultimate Frisbee also meets Sunday afternoon; be there at 4 to hurl the disc for an hour or so.

Parlor Offers Piercing Readings

Delia DeCourcy, Barry Mothes, Mark Puckett, John Copenhaver, Jeni Hankins, and Duane Couture are this week's Blue Parlor readers. Enjoy a little post-picnic entertainment as these five read from their own work in the Blue Parlor beginning at 7:30 on Sunday.

Give Your Eisenhower of Entertainment

Sunday at 9:30 in the Little Theatre *Mr. & Mrs. Jones* make their Bread Loaf debut in the sneak preview of Ellen McLaughlin and Rinde Eckert's second collaborative effort. The first such effort, their wedding, featured Ellen's objection to the minister's unwillingness to tamper with the script, Rinde's relief at not having to tamper with the script, and Rinde's eventual tampering with the script anyway, much to Ellen's relief. (You'll have to ask them for the full story, one supposes.) In any event, *Mr. & Mrs. Jones* is a 45-minute performance featuring a ukulele with a palm tree painted on it, Ellen's gunboat high-top sneakers, and a remarkable card game. (Sounds disturbingly like *Mulholland Drive II*, but I'll withhold judgment until I've seen both.)

Rinde and Ellen are Bread Loaf veterans and world-class actors, Rinde having recently garnered rave reviews for his *Moby-Dick*-inspired saga *And God Created Great Whales* at the Barbican and Ellen coming off of the huge success of her adaptation of Aeschylus' *The Persians* in New York. Bread Loaf is delighted to welcome them back for this return engagement.

Presidents Plan On ImpHarding Order, Good Cheer To Seniors

Congratulations to Debbie Chase and Peter Horn, who yesterday were elected co-presidents of the Senior Class.

Move Yer Lincolns

Criminy, as if you haven't heard this one enough: You **cannot** park on the side of Rte. 125, by the pines near the Library or behind the Inn; all those thoroughfares **must** be kept clear for emergency access. All students, staff, and faculty should park in the Barn lot.

Muldoon's Readings Fillmore Chairs Than Usual

Plan on arriving early for Paul Muldoon's reading in the Barn at 7:30 on Monday; latecomers will be faced with the unenviable prospect of having to choose between a) sitting in Barn chairs whose springs puncture your posterior or b) further occluding already oblique poetry with an obstructed-view seat. Paul will undoubtedly be reading from his most recent volume, *Moy Sand and Gravel*, but if past readings are any indication, we'll be treated to some new work as well.

Nix On Tots During Talks

If you have small children and plan to attend readings or performances this summer, kindly make arrangements to have them taken care of elsewhere; history shows that younguns don't always comport themselves so well at such public events. Besides, it would be to your disgrace to have Paul deliver an obscenity-laced tirade of invective regarding your child's behavior, although knowing Paul, he'd probably manage to phrase it in the form of a rhymed anapestic sestina. Jonathan Freedman and Sara Blair, no doubt intuitively grasping the aforementioned recommendation, need a sitter to watch Ben and Miriam on Sunday night. Contact them if you can help.

It Takes A Truman To Sing That Low

The Madrigalists will rehearse this Monday at 5 in the Barn; we're always looking for more singers, so be you bass, tenor, alto, soprano, or some indeterminate vocal part, come join us for an hour of harmonizing. By the end of rehearsal, "Fair Phyllis" will sound better than fair and "Here, There, and Everywhere" will be only the title of the song, not a description of our divergent individual tempi.

A Play You Can't A Ford To Miss

Everyone is invited to a staged reading of Abra Chernik's play *Warts* this Tuesday at 10 in the Little Theatre. In Abra's words, "*Warts* is about denial, dishonesty, and the fear of other people seeing us for who we really are. It is also about the transformation that can occur when we stop trying to hide." The all-star cast includes Chris Hutchinson from the Acting Ensemble, MacNair Randall, Abra Chernik, Micki Kaplan, Kelly Kopcial, Matt Colon, Kurt Feuer, Claire MacKenzie, Peter Horn, Elanor Bard, Scott Elledge, Joy MacVey, Gary Montano, Rebecca Armstrong, Jim Miller, Faye Christensen, Marty Andrews, Marcia Pitcher, Andy Delinsky, Suzannah Carr, Veronika Koch, Mimi Morimura, and Kalli Federhofer.

Don't Polk Fun At Aeschylus

As if having the vast majority of your works go up in smoke when the great Alexandrian library burned isn't unfortunate enough, poor Aeschylus had to suffer a most unusual death and get ridiculed by future generations. It has to be embarrassing when the nature of your demise is published in the pages of *Uncle John's Big Book of Bathroom Humor*, which is where Kurt Broderson got the right answer. Michael Armstrong, Jim Maddox, Deidre Cuffee-Gray, Meg Scheck, Liz Bedell, Andy Pederson, and Sean McCarthy also guessed correctly. Things operate a little differently today; all I'll tell you is that the President in question is **not** one whose name appears in any of today's headlines. Guesses to the *Crumb* by 11 Monday morning.

Hayes That A Pulitzer In Your Pocket, Or...?

Now that I know you get all this cool stuff, I'm going to start writing poetry in the hopes of winning one myself:

Top THIRTY Perks of Winning the Pulitzer

30. It becomes the "Paulitzer" Prize. (DA)
29. You get to meet the King and Queen of Sweden! Oh, wait, wrong prize... (MOA)
28. In your honor, the next chicken dish at dinner is named Pullet Surprise. (BBB)
27. Can sit at Waitstaff table. (WS)
26. You get to kiss Halle Berry! Oh, wait, wrong prize again... (FS)
25. Get to live with the illusion that people come to hear you because they really, really like your poetry. (DDC)
24. Pulitzer medal made of creamy milk chocolate. (MOA)
23. Lifetime supply of Lily Pulitzer boxer shorts. (JHK)
22. No longer need to resort to publishing poems in *Maxim*. (WS)
21. You get to wear a tie, just like Victor Luftig. (MV)
20. People accidentally solicit your help in brokering international peace treaties. (PAJ)
19. You get to have Tina Turner's "Simply the Best" played as you enter class. (MOA)
18. Snoop Dog gives you honorary hip-hop name of "Pizzle Muldizzle." (MOA)
17. Long hours may be given over to contemplating the oblique phonological relationship between "Pulitzer" and "Paul is czar." (WS)
16. The Guinness and beets are on the house. (DA, WS)
15. Life-sized bust of Joseph Pulitzer carved entirely from Cashel blue cheese. (JHK)
14. Cameo appearance in *Kangaroo Jack Reloaded*. (MOA)
13. Your parents get a complimentary "My Kid is a Pulitzer Prize Winner at Princeton University" bumper sticker. (BBB)
12. Now permitted to borrow Michael Armstrong's Phoebe's-chariot golf cart. (MV)
11. Sterling silver "P" suitable for pierced ear, navel, or tongue. (JHK)
10. David Huddle and Ed Brown have to let you win at tennis. (PP)
9. The "loom"/"Bloom" connection becomes credible. (WS, A)
8. Investigation and recall won't happen for at least another decade. (DDC)
7. You can retire your wee Irish accent and use your true Jersey one. (MOA, WS)
6. Philip Roth flips your burger at the annual prizewinners' backyard barbeque. (PAJ)
5. You get to pen the line "Dear Penthouse Forum: I fully expected to win the Pulitzer, but what happened next was a complete surprise..." (MOA)
4. Heavy schedule of supermarket openings and shopping mall readings. (WS)
3. Asher and Dorothy can bring in the prize for Show and Tell. (BBB)
2. Now your books get a shiny sticker and actually sell. (FS)
1. The chicks, man, the chicks! (DA, PP)

The Men of Annex and the Waitstaff nab seven spots apiece, keeping them neck-and-neck atop the standings. Men of Annex (MOA) 13; Waitstaff (WS) 11; Director's Assistants (DA) 5; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 3; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 3; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 3; Fyler Sisters (FS) 2; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 2; Anonymous (A) 1.



THE CRUMB-EDY OF ERRORS

"as many lies as will lie in thy sheet of paper, although the sheet were big enough for the bed of Ware in England, set 'em down: go, about it." – Sir Toby Belch

Volume 84, Number 10

Monday, July 7, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

If you list all characters mentioned in Shakespeare's plays alphabetically, who comes first? Who comes last? Do not count characters whose names are titles (i.e., King, Exeter, York) or descriptions (i.e., Boy, Clown).

SCHEDULE

5:00
Madrigalists
Barn

7:30
Paul Muldoon Reads
Barn

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday BLTN;
Awards Banquet

Thursday Nancie
Atwell Visit

Soon Frost Reading

MENU

Grilled trout
almondine or yellow
lentil and fennel
sauté; baked red
potatoes with tomato
pesto; green bean
and summer squash
sauté; I'll only tell
you what dessert is
once you've cleaned
your plate.

WEATHER

Today
Mostly cloudy –
PM storms?
High 85, low 65.

Tuesday
T-storms possible.
High 88, low 63.

Wednesday
Cooler and nicer.
High 78, low 53.

Woods Prove Propitious Poetic Place

[Enter ROSALIND, reading a paper.]

ROSALIND 'From the east to western dune,
No one writes like Paul Muldoon.

His verses, which I often croon,
Are unmistakable Muldoon.

All Bread Loaf shall tonight commune
To hear a reading from Muldoon.

You would be a true buffoon,

A poor pathetic picayune,
Were you to pass on Paul Muldoon.'

TOUCHSTONE That's much better than that tripe about how
beautiful you are. At least this one doesn't go all slant-
rhymey.

ROSALIND We should go hear him!

TOUCHSTONE Here's another one:

'If you desire a word-monsoon,
You should seek out Paul Muldoon.

No ref^rence is inopportune

To Prince of Princeton Paul Muldoon.

Bix Beiderbecke and Daniel Boone,

The Rolling Stones, Rocky Raccoon,

Gore Vidal, Vidal Sassoon,

Are little bits of what lies strewn

Throughout the verse of Paul Muldoon.'

ROSALIND That's no help at all. When is it? Where?

[Enter CELIA, reading another paper.]

CELIA 'Paul Muldoon will read from his poetry this evening
in the Barn at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.'

ROSALIND That didn't rhyme at all!

TOUCHSTONE Must be free verse.

CELIA No, I think it's a prose poem.

ROSALIND It does have a certain trochaic meter, but...

TOUCHSTONE I'm telling you it's free verse.

CELIA Prose poem!

TOUCHSTONE Free verse!

[Exeunt, arguing as they go.]

Seminar A Hit, A Very Palpable Hit

HAMLET Loaf Students, show me what thou't do:

Woo't talk? woo't listen? woo't join a seminar?

Woo't see how th'Online Poetry Classroom works?

I'll do't. Dost thou come here to share?

To learn how to engage your students' minds?

Be signed up quick for it, and so will I:

The list is posted still outside the Dining Hall.

HORATIO If your mind dislike anything, utter it. I've
heard predictions that guest speakers conflict with th'e event.

HAMLET Not a whit; we defy augury. There is special
providence in the way things have been scheduled.

If the seminar be Saturday, 'tis not in conflict with Nancy
Shapiro's presentation on Sunday at 9:30; if she speak on

Sunday, 'tis not overlapping with her husband Steve's
question and answer session about the ACLU on Saturday

at 10; if you go to both, 'twill still give you a chance to
write that six-page paper for Chaucer and go to the Barn

Dance. The readiness is all.

Meetings Mysteriously Prophesied

[Thunder and lightning. Enter Director Maddox.]

DIRECTOR If Teach for America you have done,
Or if you just know anyone

Who works for them, I have a plea:

On BreadNet send a note to me.

I'd like to meet and talk with you.

Where the place? The Parlor Blue.

I'll be waiting there for you.

[Enter Bartels, Broderson, Favretti]

ALL Double, double, toil and trouble,

Fire burn and caldron bubble.

In the charmed pot we throw

All things Bread Loaf despises so.

Fog that hides the mountain view,

Damnèd silken cords of blue

That keep our drinks within a kennel,

Five hundred pounds of Frenchy's fennel.

Those who gab or smoke on porches,

Empty Citronella torches.

Gilmore-goers who don't pay.

Cars parked where they're in the way.

Hair dryers that blow our fuses,

Folks who brag 'bout seeing mooses.

Mosquito eggs from stagnant puddle,

Clay courts without David Huddle.

[Bell rings.] Then let's away; the lunch bell's ringing;

Besides, we're sick of quatrain-singing.

Interest Taken in Warts

SHALLOW Warts!

FALSTAFF What? The play? Is it here?

WARTS Here, sir.

FALSTAFF Is thy name Warts? By Abra Chernik? And

art thou to be performed tomorrow evening at 10 in the

Theatre? Directed by Carol MacVey? About an hour long?

With questions and answers to follow?

WARTS Yea, sir.

FALSTAFF Thou art a very silent wart. Mehopes the play
be louder.

SHALLOW Shall I put us down for tickets, Sir John?

FALSTAFF It were superfluous, for it requires none.

Excited Locals Welcome Visitor, See Prospects for Advancement

MACBETH My dearest love, a visitor
from Carney-Sandoe's coming Thursday here.

LADY MACBETH O, never

A more polished candidate shall that man see!

Your resumé, my thane, should be a book where men

May read what matters – your deeds slightly embellishèd,

Your scandals hidden under't. To impress the man,

Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,

Your handshake firm, your toothy grin. He that's coming

Must be sign-uppèd for: and you should set

Your name upon this sheet outside the Office.

MACBETH I fear it will be filled up.

LADY MACBETH Look upon't; yet here's a spot.

Extravagant Claims Made in Tavern

FALSAF-KO You should've been there! I've seen two moose this Friday morning.

CRUMB BUM Where were they, Bernie? where were they?

FALSAF-KO Where was it! At the Snow Bowl it was; I am a rogue, if I didst not observe four of them two hours together. I have 'scaped by miracle.

CRUMB BUM What, four? thou saidst but two even now.

FALSAF-KO Four; I told thee four. These four came all a-front, and mainly thrust at me. I made me no more ado but took all their seven sets of antlers in my target, thus.

CRUMB BUM Seven? why, there were but four even now.

FALSAF-KO Seven, by these hills, or I am a villain else.

CRUMB BUM Methinks we shall have more anon.

FALSAF-KO Dost thou hear me, *Crumb Bum*?

CRUMB BUM Ay, and mark thee too, Bernie.

FALSAF-KO Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These nine that I told thee of--

CRUMB BUM So, two more already.

FALSAF-KO Began to give me ground; but I followed me close, came in foot and hand; and with a thought seven of the eleven I scared off.

CRUMB BUM O monstrous! eleven full-grown moose grown out of two!

FALSAF-KO But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten forest rangers in Kendal green came at my back and let drive at me; for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand.

CRUMB BUM These lies are like their father that begets them; gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why dost thou wound me, who hast not one moose seen in seven summers' time, with these tales? Begone!

Noblest English Students March On, On

KING HENRY Old men forget, but some did not forget

That **Taft** didst fill the ocean up that day.

Six got the answer right: then shall their names,

Familiar in our mouths as household words -

Rachel Anne Lane, Bedell and Kurt Broderson,

McCarthy and Waters and Pederson -

Be in these flowing lines freshly remembered.

And trivia questions never shall go by,

From this day to the ending of the term,

But in them answers be remembered;

Those few, those brainy few, those fonts of wisdom;

Unless they screw today's brain-teaser up.

Thumbs Bitten in Fierce Clannish Rivalry

Two households, both a-lacking dignity,

In fair Riptona, where we lay our scene,

From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,

When Top 10 lists these parties come between.

The Waitstaff trail the witty Annex men

But vow that more positions they'll deserve

In this week's challenge - naming the **Top Ten**

New Rules The Liquor Board Makes Us Observe.

This task of writing witty regulations,

Bizarre requirements, rules surpassing dumb,

That make us drink our beer with trepidation,

Is now the four-days' challenge of the *Crumb*;

The list, if you with answers do provide,

Will here appear upon the Day of Fri-d.

Royalty Intoxicated by Local Music Fest

ORSINO If music be the food of love, play on,
Give me excess of it...

CURIO How about six days of it? The Festival-on-the-Green doth continue all week. I hear Olivia will be there...

ORSINO That strain again, it had a dying fall.

O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound

That breathes upon a bank of violets,

Stealing and giving odour.

CURIO I don't know if I'd go that far, but that was the Fat Tones - you can hear them tonight at 7. Or the Holmes Brothers at 8:30. Why don't you just buy their CD's? Then, thanks to digital mastering, the sound will **always** be as sweet as it was before!

Festival-on-the-Green Schedule of Performances

Monday, July 7

7:00 *The Fat Tones*

8:30 *The Holmes Brothers*

Tuesday, July 8

12:00 *Magician Tom Verner*

7:00 *Middlebury Community Players - Music from Chicago*

8:00 *Susie Arioli Trio featuring Jordan Officer*

Wednesday, July 9

12:00 *Reed Star Twirlers*

7:00 *Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion*

8:30 *Starline Rhythm Boys*

Thursday, July 10

12:00 *Robert, Carol & Gigi for Kids*

7:00 *Jeremy Kittel & Friends*

8:30 *Starline Rhythm Boys*

Friday, July 11

12:00 *Family Dance featuring Mud Season*

7:00 *Barachois*

8:30 *New Nile Orchestra*

Saturday, July 12

7:00 *Street Dance featuring the Vermont Jazz Ensemble*



THE CRUMB

*"...awful thoughts, and awful words,
but they was said."
-Huckleberry Finn*

Volume 84, Number 11

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

*Which poet,
famous partly for
writing about
flowers, had no
sense of smell?*

SCHEDULE

6:00
Awards Banquet
Dining Hall

7:00-9:00
BLTN
Barn 1

7:15
Painless Volleyball
Field

10:00
Warts
Little Theatre

MENU

Moroccan style
chicken breast with
lemon and olives or
Turkish mixed beans
with potatoes,
celeriac, and carrots;
artichokes and
tomatoes with garlic
and feta cheese; corn
on the cob; mud
slide pie for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Chance of T-
storms.
High 88, low 63.

Tomorrow
Brighter & drier.
High 78, low 53.

Thursday
An unimaginative
imitation of
Wednesday.
High 78, low 53.

Banquet Tonight Honors Named Scholarship Winners, Faculty Chairholders

Bread Loaf's Awards Banquet takes place this evening in the Dining Hall. Immediately following the meal, Jim Maddox will present this summer's recipients of the many named scholarships Bread Loaf offers and announce the new holders of Bread Loaf's prestigious endowed faculty chairs. Please join us at 6:00 to recognize both the generosity of Bread Loaf's supporters and the accomplishments of our recognized students.

Warts Happenin', Warts Up, Warts Goin' On

The recent trend of original theatrical productions continues this evening at 10, when a staged reading of Abra Chernik's play *Warts* takes place in the Little Theatre. The play deals with the implications of an STD diagnosis on a young woman's life; the cast of dozens includes Chris Hutchinson from the Acting Ensemble, MacNair Randall, Abra Chernik, Micki Kaplan, Kelly Kopcial, Matt Colon, Kurt Feuer, Claire MacKenzie, Peter Horn, Elanor Bard, Scott Elledge, Joy MacVey, Gary Montano, Rebecca Armstrong, Jim Miller, Faye Christensen, Marty Andrews, Marcia Pitcher, Andy Delinsky, Suzannah Carr, Veronika Koch, Mimi Morimura, and Kalli Federhofer. Marcia Pitcher is stage managing, John Moran is our videographer, and the great Carol MacVey is directing. Due to adult content, children should not attend, but everyone else is encouraged to drop by. The reading will last about an hour.

Wish You Were With Dixie?

Hooray, hooray! All BLTN members are reminded of their meeting **tonight** (not the usual night) from 7-9 in Barn 1.

Volleyball Not Hard

Those still smarting from the bruises incurred by hitting a volleyball that felt far more like a Sister Albertina ruler-across-the-wrists than any aspect of an enjoyable, voluntarily pursued sporting event should, take comfort. The *Crumb* has learned of the purchase of a new, forearm-friendly volleyball, to be put into play this evening at 7:15. Look for David Huddle (if it involves a ball and a net, he's there) and the rest of the crew tonight on the field.

Strong Gathering Weak in Men

Jonathan Strong announces that the meetings to discuss issues surrounding sexual orientation will continue tomorrow at 9 in the Blue Parlor. He was thrilled with the turnout at last week's meeting (about twenty students attended), but perplexed at the fact that none of those twenty were men. As Jonathan writes, "Straight male teachers can be particularly important in establishing a sense of safety for gay students. It's truly important to model accepting behavior. Remember, closeted gay kids are three times as likely to commit suicide as straight kids. And ALL gay kids experience bullying, hazing, and abuse in vastly greater numbers. It's up to us who teach to provide a safe environment for them - now! Come discuss how to do it. We'll have both some useful resources and our own experiences to share."

Rin Tin Tin Turned In

Unfortunately, folks still continue to flout the Bread Loaf rule prohibiting dogs on campus at all times. Up here, barks are just as bad as bites; unattended dogs (especially friendly ones) have a habit of disturbing others with attention-getting woofs, and a sociable but lonesome canine barked so persistently yesterday that it had to be removed to the Front Desk. Please abide by this regulation, lest continued violators be forcibly dunked in a honey-based solution that proves both immensely attractive to black flies and extremely difficult to remove.

Teach For America Vets Valued

Jim Maddox is also very interested in exploring opportunities for Bread Loaf to collaborate with Teach for America and would like to find out more about that program. Accordingly, if you're a Teach for America veteran, or know anyone involved in that organization, please e-mail Jim or contact Elaine to set up an appointment in the near future.

Charter Members Sought

Not for the exclusive Old Piney Country Club (golf course and day spa soon to be constructed just beyond Gilmore), but for a network of charter-school teachers. Bread Loaf would like to write a grant proposal for the formation of such a network; all teachers interested in being a part of such a network should send to Jim Maddox (via BreadNet) their name, the name of their school, and, where applicable, the name of any organization of charter schools to which their schools belong (check with your home school to discover that piece of information). The Bread Loaf grant writers will ponder the information and will be back in contact with the teachers once we have begun to shape a proposal.

Resumé Writing Resumes

The *Crumb* dutifully reported that a representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates will visit campus on Thursday. While technically accurate, the failure to mention that the Thursday in question was Thursday, July 17 might have misled teachers thinking about embarking on a job search into a frantic, last-minute resumé-polishing frenzy. While your immediate energies are not required to prepare for a meeting with the representative, they should be directed towards the decidedly less onerous task of getting your name on the signup sheet outside Elaine's office, as spaces tend to fill up well in advance of the actual visit.

Director's Mind Going South

We're not talking about Jim's refrain that "What Bread Loaf really needs is a course on the *Babysitters' Club* series," or his worrisome proposal to determine the site of the sixth Bread Loaf campus by its proximity to monster-truck rallies. No, we're speaking in purely geographic terms here, as Jim Maddox will hold an informal meeting at 5 on Thursday in Barn 1 for anyone curious about Bread Loaf's brand-new Guadalajara campus.

Best Guests Come In the Middle of Summer

Living legend Nancy Atwell, author of *In the Middle* and other canonical texts about new ways of teaching writing to adolescents, will speak in the Barn this Thursday at 7:30. More info, designed to instill in you the proper sense of awe at Atwell's accomplishments and to convince you to attend, will follow in this week's *Crumbs*.

Search for Zip Turns Up Squat

To those foolish souls who borrowed zip drives from the Apple Cellar and who are now rousing Caroline's wrath by not having returned them: Bring them back soon, lest she turn the immense power she wields to dark purposes, such as programming all Apple Cellar computers to automatically but surreptitiously replace the word "Shakespeare" with "Billy Boy" or respond to your attempts to save work with a chilling "I'm sorry, Dave, but I'm afraid I can't do that."

Jog Or Walk Orr Run

The 19th Annual Charlie Orr Memorial Fun Run will be held on Saturday, July 26. All are welcome to run (or walk) and need only show up to join in, but to truly support the cause (and look spiffy as you prove to your friends back home that you ran a 5K, or at least give the *appearance* of having run a 5K), you'll need to sign up for a Charlie Orr T-shirt by noon on Friday. Bring your \$10 to the Front Desk; they'll spend some of it on a custom-designed shirt (see the bulletin board for the design) and donate the difference to the Charlie Orr Scholarship.

Have Designs on Another Design?

You'll also notice the design of this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt posted soon (if not already) outside the Dining Hall, along with an order form designed to prevent ugly end-of-summer Bookstore tussles over the last remaining XL. Thanks and congratulations go to Marge Droge, who created the sleek rendering of the clapboard Inn walls.

On the Contrary, Bulletin Thrilled

No bulletin board could be bored with the number of postings sprouting outside the Dining Hall these days. In addition to the two T-shirt designs now gracing the cork, the signup sheet for the Academy of American Poets' Saturday seminar on the Online Poetry Workshop still has a few open slots. There are still some opportunities to lead yoga class this week and next. The Wimbleloaf draws are posted and await results of the opening-round matches. And all manner of local folks have posted notices of their services and sales. Check it out.

First Fete Generates Second Supper

Off-campus-residing families seeking company for the kiddies and food for the whole family are invited to another potluck dinner, this one to be held this Friday at 5:30 at Jumi Kim's house. Call Tracy Lutz (453-3113) to let her know what you'll be bringing.

They Knew Him, Horatio

Andy Pederson and Sean McCarthy both navigated the convoluted restrictions of yesterday's trivia question and recognized that in terms of their **given** names (not titular ones such as "York") and **mentioned** characters (not limited to people appearing on stage), Aaron the Moor from *Titus Andronicus* and Yorick from *Hamlet* come first and last, alphabetically speaking. We're back to "Name That Author" today, and the clue is back to its customary location – lying dormant but discernible in a headline somewhere in this issue.

Sample Our Fine Whines

The waiters are crowing over having convinced the Annex-residing members of their staff to abandon their roots and throw their support to the Waitstaff's Top 10 effort. We'll see if it does them any good, or the Annex any harm, in this week's competition for inclusion in the **Top Ten Other Rules the Liquor Board Makes Us Observe**. Meanwhile, the Directors and Director's Assistants continue their fierce rivalry; rumor has it that the real reason Emily Bartels was dispatched to New Mexico was to solicit all the witty responses she could from *that* student body, a vast pool of creativity susceptible to directorial "persuasion" and unencumbered by current alliance with either the Men of Annex or the Waitstaff. Lists due to the *Crumb* by Friday morning; look for immediate imposition of all accepted submissions during Saturday's Barn Dance.



THE CRUMB

"...volumes that I prize
above my dukedom."
-Prospero

Volume 84, Number 12

Wednesday, July 9, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Who are the only two authors to have won a Pulitzer Prize, a National Book Award, and a PEN/Faulkner Award since 1980 (although not necessarily all in one year)?

SCHEDULE

Director's Reception
5:00, West Lawn

Ultimate Frisbee
7:15, Field

Issues of Sexual
Orientation Meeting
9:00, Blue Parlor

MENU

Seared catch of the day drizzled with balsamic butter sauce or orzo with currants and diced red peppers; sherried vegetable potpourri; creamed spinach; sesame rolls; blueberry crisp with ice cream.

WEATHER

Today
Weather.gov says:
sunny, 78/53.
As I write: gloomy,
spitting rain. So much
for weather.gov.

Tomorrow
Weather.gov says:
Sun turning to
t-storms, 83/63.
My prediction:
T-storms turning to
sun. Take that.

Friday
Weather.gov says:
Showers all day,
73/63.
My prediction:
Avalanche, total
eclipse, return of Ice
Age, -27/146.

Time Constraints Prevent Maddox from Presenting All Awards Last Night

Crumb To Present Oddly Named Scholarships, Chairs for Undistinguished Faculty,
Other Prizes of Indeterminate or Questionable Prestige

The Calypso Cup for Warmest Welcome

...is awarded to the entire Bread Loaf community in anticipation of what we're sure will be the enthusiastic reception given to the many visitors arriving over the next few days. Our guests include the Andover Bread Loaf Writing Workshop participants, the directors and students from Students at the Center from New Orleans, School District of Greenville County administrators, Nancy Shapiro and Christina Davis of Teachers and Writers Collaborative, and various other special visitors including Nancie Atwell, Steve Shapiro, and teachers and administrators from Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Cordelia Memorial Award

...established in honor of the tragically underappreciated princess in *King Lear*, is awarded to that Bread Loaf student who best communicates a sense of his or her true background, character, and ambitions to Jonathan Ball, representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, on Thursday, July 17. Mr. Ball and Carney, Sandoe help place teaching candidates in appropriate positions and far surpass Cordelia's father in their abilities to discern and reward true devotion and talent in the field of education. Sign up for an appointment on the Office bulletin board.

The Gender Gap Termination Trophy

...will be awarded to all men who go to the discussions on issues of sexual orientation in education, to be held this evening at 9 in the Blue Parlor. The talks have proved highly interesting thus far but puzzlingly have been attended only by female Bread Loaf students. Of course, Jonathan Strong adds, anyone who wishes to talk about these crucial issues is cordially invited to this evening's meeting.

The Quayle/Potatoe Award for Poor Spelling Under Public Scrutiny

...goes to the *Crumb* Bum for mistakenly announcing that "Nancy Atwell" will be visiting Bread Loaf this Thursday. Nancy Atwell, judging from initial Google hits, somehow both teaches a weekly ceramics class at Lizard Prints Gallery in Roseburg, Oregon and serves as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador. Turns out that our visitor is Nancie Atwell, the famed author of *In the Middle* and expert on developing reading and writing workshops. Please do not get the two confused; Nancie Atwell will be speaking on Thursday evening in the Barn at 7:30 and likely will neither accede to any requests to throw pots nor answer any questions about the climate in Quito. The Bookstore has ordered a supply of Nancie's texts; they'll be on the shelves tomorrow morning.

The "Not Just Sometimes Y" Prize for Vowel Equal Opportunity

...goes to Bread Loaf for its recent efforts to redress inequities in vowel distribution among its campuses. The choices of the first three sites - Vermont, Oxford, and New Mexico - betrayed an unconscious prejudice against "U" and an almost wanton disregard for the valuable "A." The latter wrong was quickly righted by the addition of an Alaska program, and "U" has finally gained acceptance at Bread Loaf thanks to the upcoming addition of a Guadalajara campus. Jim Maddox will offer a brief description of this fifth program and answer your questions to the best of his ability Thursday at 5 in Barn 1. Come if you're interested in attending the inaugural summer in Mexico, or if you just like the thought of hearing people say "Guadalajara" over and over again. (Try it - it's fun!) Middlebury also plans on making Bread Loaf an equal-consonant program before the decade is out, expanding into La Paz, Quebec, and Riyadh to make sure all twenty-six letters are utilized.

The Ma Ingalls Prize for Hospitality in the American Wilderness

...goes to Jumi Kim and Tracy Lutz for organizing yet another potluck supper for families living off campus. This week's get-together takes place on Friday at 5:30 at Jumi's house; call Tracy at 453-3113 to RSVP.

The Martha Stewart Prize for Providing Pastoral Comforts In A Minimum-Security Facility

...is awarded this year to Director's Assistants Kurt Broderson, Maggie Favretti, and Mark Wright for their efforts to render the Director's Reception attendees blissfully forgetful of the fact that they are penned in like so many helpless head of livestock as a result of the draconian edicts of the Vermont State Liquor Board. Some party tips from Martha:

- Don't demarcate boundaries with all-purpose twine; add a touch of class by using silken blue cord (preferably hand-dyed and woven from hand-combed fur from the alpaca grazing in your backyard veldt).
- Hand-calligraphed signs warning against carrying liquor outside prescribed areas (or counseling against any other sort of lascivious carriage) are always preferable to the crude, impersonal tone of word-processed warnings to the same effect.
- There's no underestimating the tranquilizing effect of a well-mixed gin and tonic on potentially unruly crowds, disgruntled factotums, or prosecutorial grand jury witnesses. Only organic limes will do!

Remember that this afternoon's reception will take place on the West Lawn rather than in Treman.

The Marcel Proust Cup for Creative Use of Time

...goes to Elaine Lathrop for the intricate machinations involved in finding enough time in Jim Maddox's schedule for him to meet with any charter school teachers attending Bread Loaf and with anyone familiar with Teach for America. Bread Loaf is contemplating applying for grants to assist in collaboration with, and support of, these organizations; please e-mail Jim or see Elaine as soon as possible to schedule a meeting time. Before long, Jim's only open slots will be "between dessert and coffee at dinner on Tuesday" and "while he fiddles with the reluctant latch on his post office box next Friday morning."

The Cliffs Notes Cup for Succinct Summation

...is awarded to the *Crumb* for reprinting the names of all recipients of named scholarships and all winners of endowed faculty chairs, presented at last evening's Awards Banquet.

The Reginald and Juanita Cook Scholarship	Shauna Turnbull
The Mina Shaughnessy Scholarship	Chad Rucker
The Beth Cubeta Scholarship	Casey Riley
The Challenger Scholarship	Mark Valentine
The Margaret Fielders Scholarship	Ileana Jimenez
The Brent Goeres Scholarship	Kelly Kopcial
The Larry Holland Scholarships	Jean Amodeo and Gregory Taylor
The Kathleen Downey Scholarship	Deidre Cuffee-Gray
The John M. Kirk, Jr. Scholarship	Lewis Goff
The Pauline Decker Scholarship	Sarah Hobson
The Chase Byron Scholarship	Pete Clark
The Charlie Orr Scholarship	Julie Lausé
The Raymond Waldron Scholarship	Chris Kavanaugh
The Dulcie Scott Scholarship	Jennifer Welch
The Rocky Gooch Scholarship	Andrew Lesh
The Ruth Walzer Scholarship	Abby Manzella
The Wylie and Lucy Sypher Scholarship	Ana Silva

The Ruth and Lillian Marino Chair	Jenny Green-Lewis
The Robert Frost Chair	John Elder

The Close Shave Cup

...is awarded to that individual, now deeply indebted to the *Crumb* Bum, who requests inclusion in that day's issue closest to press time. Today the award goes to Peter Horn, Senior Class Co-President, who reminds seniors of their meeting tomorrow at 5:30 and urges them to check their mailboxes for an important letter detailing graduation miscellany.

The Partridge Prize for Impressive Range of Talent Gathered in One Family

...is awarded this year to Steve and Nancy Shapiro, both of whom will be visiting Bread Loaf and speaking on their respective areas of expertise this weekend. Steve, Legal Director of the ACLU, will talk about recent Supreme Court decisions and other topics touching on civil liberties this Saturday at 10 AM in Barn 1; Nancy, Executive Director of Teachers & Writers Collaborative, will speak on Sunday at 9:30 in Barn 1.

The Ed Brown Award for Simple Sartorial Splendor

...is awarded to the fashion design that best combines elegance with informality. This year the prize is given jointly to Marge Droge, designer of this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt, and Ed Brown himself, designer of the Charlie Orr Run T-shirt. Give \$10 to the Front Desk by Friday noon for your Orr T; you'll pay the \$10 for the Bread Loaf shirt when you pick it up from the Bookstore in a few weeks.

The Shipping & Receiving Assistance Fund

...was established to assist the Front Desk in determining the correct recipients for the surprisingly large quantity of "mystery mail" that arrives each summer. Posted on the door next to the PO boxes is a handwritten, obviously personal letter addressed only to the Bread Loaf School of English; if you recognize the sender, feel free to claim the letter as your own.

The Variety Prize for News of the Theatre

...goes to Faye Christensen for alerting the *Crumb* that the parade of performances in the Little Theatre marches on – next week brings us Harold Pinter's irresistibly puzzling play *Ashes to Ashes*. Ensemble members Elizabeth Norment and Chris Hutchison play two characters whose relationship is unclear – psychiatrist and patient? Husband and wife? None of the above? Performances are scheduled for next Tuesday at 8 and 9:30 PM and Wednesday at 8:00. Tickets are free but required; pick yours up at the Front Desk starting today.

Tautological Award for Best Film Whose Title Is Itself An Award

...goes to Christopher Guest's *Best in Show*, the second in his directorial triptych of mockumentaries that gently skewer the overly ardent and helplessly amateur participants in the worlds of local theater (*Waiting for Guffman*), folk music (*A Mighty Wind*), and dog shows (*Best in Show*). Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey and Fred Willard star alongside Guest; we'll start our showing this Friday at 9 in the Barn. Munchies provided.

The Afrin Cup for Human Olfactory Relief

...established to aid writers deficient in the sense of smell, once again goes to William Wordsworth, the answer to yesterday's trivia question. Christie Beveridge, Kurt Broderson, and Liz Bedell all sniffed out the correct answer (with some help provided by the headline "Rin Tin Tin Turned In"). I've scattered fragments of titles of works by today's two mystery authors in headlines throughout today's issue; can you patch the right words together to determine the two writers' identities?

The "Stain of Stephen Ambrose" Censure for Borderline or Outright Plagiarism

...is once again awarded to the *Crumb* (cry favoritism all you want – hey, I could have given myself *all* of the prizes) for its blatant rip off of the *Late Night With David Letterman* staple, the Top Ten list. Fortunately, no contact has been initiated between the *Crumb* and Mr. Letterman's legal counsel, so this week's category, **Top Ten Other Rules the Liquor Board Makes Us Observe**, can continue as scheduled. Submissions due by Friday at 11 AM; perhaps the ongoing trampling of the competition by the Men of Annex and the Waitstaff will propel Gilmore, Larch, and Tamarack into an odd, but necessary, alliance (upon which I would bestow the somewhat monstrous-sounding and hopefully intimidating name "TamGillLa") in a desperate attempt to get in the race before it's too late.



ODDS & ENDS

Which writer claimed that he only laughed twice in his life – neither time in the company of others?

SCHEDULE

Guadalajara Information Session
5:00, Barn 1

Madrigalists
5:00, Barn

Senior Meeting
5:30, Blue Parlor

Nancie Atwell
7:30, Barn

Gilmore
9:00, Gilmore

MENU

Grilled pork chops with fresh dried fruit chutney or couscous and bulgur with eggplant, leeks, mushrooms and tomatoes; sautéed bok choy with assorted peppers; rye bread; red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Partly cloudy.
High 79, low 59.

Tomorrow
Yes, the newspaper was right: rain was general all over Vermont. It was falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the forested hills, falling softly upon the Puddle of Johnson and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mutinous Champlain waves. It was falling, too, upon every part of the lonely graveyard on the right of 125 as you climb the mountain. It quickly coated the peeling Adirondack chairs, the Frisbee field, the students hurrying for cover. Their souls swooned slowly as they heard the rain falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, knowing that a bolt of lightning could fry the power lines, cast the Apple Cellar into darkness, and, rendering all unsaved work gone forever, bring upon them the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.
High 70, low 60.

THE CRUMB

*"Your conjecture is totally wrong, I assure you."
-Fitzwilliam Darcy*

Volume 84, Number 13

Thursday, July 10, 2003

Andover Bread Loaf Participants Arrive for Whirlwind of Work

The unfamiliar but friendly faces you'll see on campus over the next twenty-four hours probably belong to the Andover Bread Loaf Fellows, whose annual visit begins today. Led by the heroic Lou Bernieri, whom Jim Maddox described as "a dynamo nearly on a par with Dixie," this program for inner-city and Third World teachers earns participants Bread Loaf course credit and has brought us a significant fraction of our student population over the years. Please join the *Crumb* in wishing them a fantastically productive and enjoyable stay at Bread Loaf.

Today's Featured Text: *The Corrections*

Dangerously undercaffeinated and still groggy from staying up until 2:30 the previous night ghostwriting Volume VIII of Ed Brown's autobiography, *The Not-So-Scruffy Years, 1981-1983*, the *Crumb* Bum made a number of uncharacteristic errors in yesterday's issue. Today's publication dutifully sets the record straight.

Atwell Not Just Reading; Writing, Too

Although the *Crumb*'s estimation of Nancie Atwell's mighty contributions to the teaching of writing and incalculable influence upon thousands of teachers around the world has not been called into question in the slightest (nor will it), yesterday's issue neglected to mention that after to speaking on "Poetry: A Place to Start" this evening at 7:30 in the Barn, Nancie will gladly sign copies of her many canonical works. Her most recent book, *Lessons That Change Writers* (2002), is a collection of the lessons identified by her students as those that most helped them craft their prose and poetry. Nancie has been a consultant to BLSE, where she studied for three summers, since 1983; we're all overjoyed to welcome her back.

Mr. Mexico's Mind Mistakenly Mocked

Tuesday's *Crumb* featured the potentially slanderous headline "Director's Mind Going South." Jim Maddox immediately objected to the obvious inaccuracy therein; the headline should have read "Directors **Don't** Mind Going South." Eager to get Bread Loaf Guadalajara off to a glorious start next summer, Jim encourages all students interested in the new campus to come to a brief question-and-answer session today at 5 in Barn 1. Another informational meeting will occur later in the summer, so Madrigalists can still attend today's rehearsal and seniors don't have to miss their 5:30 meeting.

Beloved Former Faculty Member Nancy Martin, 94, Dies

It is with great sadness that we report the death of former Bread Loaf faculty member Nancy Martin. Jim Maddox writes: "Nancy changed the lives and careers of a very large handful of Bread Loaf students. She was tireless in her encouragement of young teachers and was, with her great friend and Bread Loaf colleague Jimmy Britton, the leading authority in England on the teaching of writing.

"She visited Lucy and me in Washington once when she



was well into her 80's and walked us off our feet. She was famous for her short, five-minute naps in ANY circumstances, after which she would shake herself and plunge right back into the conversation. When confronted with a plate that she didn't like in our dining room, she would exclaim, 'What IS this, boiled dog?' Never dotty, she was just enough off-center to be an absolute, comic delight." Nancy will be missed indeed by all those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with her at Bread Loaf and beyond.

Rapid Revision of Recent Ridicule

The *Crumb* sincerely regrets that last Thursday's article on the Gilmore reading contained the erroneous implication that the Men of Gilmore were mired in some sort of evolutionary backwater; after a rapid and forceful objection raised by the Gilmore inhabitants, the *Crumb* Bum retracts his claims about the Gilmoreans' character and genetic makeup, reminds the community that there will be a bonfire and a reading beginning tonight at 9, and assures the Men of Gilmore that their prediction regarding the difficulty of writing a 2000-word document each day with multiple broken fingers, blurred vision, and post-traumatic amnesia was uncannily accurate.

Strong Words Proved Ill-Advised

The *Crumb* regrets the inaccuracy of its earlier announcement that Jonathan Strong's presentation on Monday would involve a demonstration of precision knife-throwing and the world premiere of a Concerto for Kazoo and Eight Didgeridoos; Scott Elledge has regretfully informed the *Crumb* that the eighth didgeridoist came down with chapped lips and that Jonathan's knife-throwing skills are "not up to the level where resultant litigation would be unlikely." Jonathan will instead return to his first area of expertise, his masterly writing, and will read from his fiction on Monday at 7:30 in the Barn.

Cat Returns; "Long National Nightmare" Over

The *Crumb* regrets not having duly informed the community of the disappearance of Emily Bartels' beloved cat Christopher last week, but is jubilant to report that from New Jersey comes the happy news that the itinerant tabby has, in fact, returned safely home. Good thing, too, as the five hundred supplicants Emily hired to chant round-the-clock orisons imploring the Great Feline in the Sky for Christopher's return didn't come cheap.

Personal Promise Proves Premature

In an effort to avoid such embarrassing and potentially calamitous mistakes in the future, the *Crumb* Bum swore he'd catch up on his sleep this weekend. But he's now forced to retract even *that* statement, as both Saturday and Sunday morning bring presentations that sound too good to miss. On Saturday at 10 in Barn 1, Steve Shapiro, Legal Director of the ACLU, will talk about current issues in civil liberties; on Sunday at 9:30 in Barn 1, Nancy Shapiro, Executive Director of Teachers & Writers Collaborative, will speak about the work of her organization. Both events are open to the entire community.

...and Don't Think of Going to Bed Early, Either

You'll have to burn the candle at both ends just attending all the extracurricular events on tap this weekend (to say nothing of that eight-page paper on *Paradise Lost* you've been meaning to start). Friday night's film is Christopher Guest's mockumentary *Best in Show*, featuring Michael Hitchcock and Parker Posey as yuppies who project their neuroses onto their Weimeraner, Eugene Levy as an owner pressed into the climactic show-trot despite a peculiar anatomical defect, and Guest himself as a drawling Piedmont bloodhound-owner and aspiring ventriloquist who fondly remembers the hours of his childhood simply spent "naming nuts...peanut. Hazelnut. Cashew nut. Macadamia nut...Pine nut, which is a nut, but it's also the name of a town. Pistachio nut. Red pistachio nut. Natural, all natural white pistachio nut." Sound irresistible, or just worth investigating? Showtime's 9 tomorrow in the Barn. On Saturday, there'll be the first unthemed Barn Dance of the summer, although perhaps by tomorrow, the Director's Assistants will have come up with not only a theme, but a thematically appropriate name for the inevitable blue-rope boundaries beyond which beer is banned.

Ashes Kicked All the Way to Blue Parlor

Certain nit-pickers have informed the *Crumb* of an inaccuracy in yesterday's article announcing next week's staged reading. The actual location will be the Blue Parlor. Apparently, the title of the play (*Ashes to Ashes*), the playwright (Harold Pinter), the performers (Chris Hutchison and Elizabeth Norment), the times (Tuesday at 8 and 9:30, Wednesday at 8), and the procedure for procuring tickets (visit the Front Desk) remain accurate, but those in the know are urged to inform the *Crumb* of further factual mistakes - if, for example, the correct information is that Michael Armstrong and Lucy Maddox will be presenting *Terminator 2: The Musical* next Saturday morning in Johnson Pond.

Fast Facts on Free Food Fallacy

The *Crumb* apologizes for an error in the description of what consequences will ensue for off-campus residents who persist in sneaking into the Dining Hall without having purchased meal tickets at the Front Desk. (Please be aware that the waitstaff has stepped up their vigilance - if they don't know who you are already, they will soon.) The original article stated that "violators will be lashed to the nearest pine and forced to listen to Gilbert Gottfried reading the Book-on-Tape version of *Ellen*," unaware that the International Criminal Court in The Hague had recently ruled against such punishment on humanitarian grounds. Violators will now simply be flayed.

Recipe Retraction

The *Crumb* retracts its statement that it would bring Jell-O salad to the off-campus family cookout tomorrow evening at 5:30 Jumi Kim's house. Besides not living off campus and not having children, the *Crumb* also declines to attend because he has learned that certain guests think finding little maraschino cherries and green grape segments hidden within the gelatinous concoction is, like, really gross. If you're planning on coming, call Tracy at 453-3113 to RSVP.

Annex Men Feel Bitter, Neglected

The degree of contrition of the *Crumb*'s apology at omitting Andy Pederson and Sean McCarthy from the list of those who identified Wordsworth as Tuesday's mystery author is tempered somewhat by the unprovoked belligerence with which the two gentlemen confronted the *Crumb* Bum to point out his error. Let them, therefore, be first mentioned among the many who found that Philip Roth and Annie Proulx are the only two authors who have accumulated a Pulitzer, a National Book Award, and a PEN/Faulkner Award since 1980. Christie Beveridge, Lea Kelley, Jorge Rodriguez, Matt Micciche, Chris Holmes, and Kurt Broderson also responded correctly. Today's clues are located in the usual place, but I'm not telling you what form they take. Happy hunting.

Top Ten Rules Proving Restrictive

Reminders of tomorrow's 11 AM deadline for submissions to **Top Ten Other Rules The Liquor Board Makes Us Observe** have, the *Crumb* has recently learned, been insufficiently informative. The State Liquor Board (apparently run by Dolores Umbridge) requires that:

- all submissions must be accompanied by a notarized copy of a current duck-hunting license or Venezuelan passport (no other forms of ID are acceptable);
- all entries must be turned in to the Front Desk, which must be accessed **only** by walking through the Blue Parlor, exiting out the back door of the Inn, sneaking through the entrance to the secret passageway in the basement of Larch, clambering up the spiral staircase up into the Tea Cabin, hopping on one foot across the West Lawn, and reentering the front door of the Inn;
- each entry must be written in blood.



THE CRUMB

"Real cool."
-Gwendolyn Brooks

Volume 84, Number 14

Friday, July 11, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Whose last words were "On the contrary" – a response to his wife's opinion that his health was improving?

SCHEDULE

Today
Baby Love
7:30 PM, Barn 1

Best In Show
9 PM, Barn

Saturday
Steve Shapiro Talk
10 AM, Barn 1

Barn Dance
9 PM, Barn

Sunday
Nancy Shapiro Talk
9:30 AM, Barn 1

Blue Parlor Readings
7:30, Blue Parlor

Sexual Orientation
Discussion Group
9 PM, Barn

MENU

Spaghetti with carbonara or tomato sauce; charcoal-grilled summer salad with arugula and mesclun; steamed broccoli, cauliflower, and baby carrots; wait & see what's for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
AM rain.
High 70, low 60.

Saturday
Partly cloudy.
High 78, low 58.

Sunday
Scattered showers.
High 79, low 61.

Fixin' for Fiction?

Professor Jonathan Strong continues this summer's faculty readings, presenting excerpts from his work on Monday evening in the Barn. Jonathan's novels include *The Old World*, *The Haunts of His Youth*, and, most recently, *Ourselves*. No word yet on whether Jonathan will be reading and/or performing excerpts from *Happy as a Clam*, the children's musical that is one of his current projects (true!). Everyone is invited, of course; plan to arrive before the 7:30 starting gun to get the comfiest Barn chairs.

Get a Load of This Shih Tzu

Not to give anything too specific away about the plot, but here's a great *Best In Show* story from amazon.com: when the real-world owner of the poodle used in the film was presented with this movie, she didn't read the full script. When she realized that her dog would not be winning 'Best in Show' at the end of the movie, she quickly pulled the dog out of production. The crew had to get a dog that looked similar to the original dog, and spray paint its fur so it looked exactly the same. If such people don't deserve mockery and humiliation, then I don't know who does. Come share the raucous glee of laughing at their expense and the suspense of waiting to see whether Hubert the bloodhound, Tyrone the Shih Tzu, Rhapsody in White the poodle, Beatrice the Weimaraner, or Winky the Norwich terrier takes home the big prize. (And lest you think such names unfairly ridicule dog-show participants, allow me to inform you that the **actual** names of the dogs used in the film are far, far worse: "Arokat's Echobar Take Me Dancing," "Urchin's Bryllo," "Quiet Creek's Stand By Me," "Raptures Classic," "Symarun's Red Hot Kisses," and – I swear – "Brocade Exclamation Ca. Ch. Exxel Dezi Duz It With Pizaz.")

Weekend Plans a Mystery? Find ACLU on Saturday, Collaborate on Sunday

A reminder that all those interested in discussing the current state of civil liberties, particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court decisions and the ongoing war against terrorism, are invited to a discussion with ACLU Legal Director Steve Shapiro tomorrow morning at 10. Nancy Shapiro, Executive Director of Teachers & Writers Collaborative, will be speaking on the work of her organization at 9:30 on Sunday in Barn 1; both events are open to everybody.

Poetry Steps Online

A few slots still remain for tomorrow's Academy of American Poets Online Poetry Workshop. The seminar runs from 9-4 and will feature plenty of free stuff in addition to copious and invaluable guidance, advice, and support for teachers' attempts to bring poetry into the classroom in original and engaging ways. Caroline Eisner points out that students may find tomorrow's program especially useful in conjunction with Nancie Atwell's presentation last evening. See Caroline if you have any questions.

Groove Thing to Shake; Moves Busted

After careful contemplation and the consideration of several potential unifying themes for this week's Barn Dance, the staff has decided to call it simply "Dance Dance." Accordingly, DJ's Julie Lausé, Jim Miller, and Gregory Taylor will play music unattached to any particular theme, Kurt and Maggie will serve beverages lacking an underlying motif, and the blue ropes set up outside the Barn will not fence in a Barn Yard or shape a Time Capsule; they'll simply keep beer from getting into the "No Zone." Music starts at 9.

Tangled Up In Blue

Stellar writers and immense interest have led to overflow crowds at recent Blue Parlor readings; this week's promises to be no less brilliant. Listen for the announcement of this week's readers at lunch today and show up on Sunday at 7:30. Justin and Mark also add that they plan to keep this week's session under an hour, just long enough for a study break but not long enough to qualify as truly procrastinatory.

Orientation Conversation Information

After a great turnout at Wednesday's meeting, Jonathan Strong has scheduled the next conversation about sexual orientation in education for Sunday at 9 in the Blue Parlor. Everyone is welcome.

Meetings Become Online SAGA

Jonathan also announces that the Blue Parlor conversations can now continue in a new public conference on BreadNet called SAGA (Straight and Gay Alliance). Look there for organizations to contact, books and films to use in the classroom, support and advice for anyone needing it, and strategies for making your school a safe and enlightened environment – because, as Jonathan notes, "as a teacher, you never know when a problem – or an opportunity – will arise."

New Nile Floods Green

If you've seen enough Eugene Levy films recently, or are afraid of dogs, or think (shudder) that dog shows are a noble endeavor not to be made fun of, then perhaps you'd be happier going to tonight's Festival-on-the-Green in downtown Middlebury. Director's Assistant Kurt Broderson calls the New Nile Orchestra, performing this evening, "awesome"; here's hoping the weather dries out in time for their 8:30 set.

1 Play, 2 Actors, 3 Times, 4 Days Left

The play in question is Harold Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes*, an eerie, compelling investigation into violent events in the characters' histories and in the world's. The two actors are Chris Hutchison and Elizabeth Norment. The three times are Tuesday at 8 and 9:30 and Wednesday at 8. Because the staged readings will take place in the Blue Parlor, tickets are required; on the plus side, though, they're free and available for pickup at the Front Desk.

Baby Love a Supreme Achievement

Baby Love, a film designed and produced by the Students at the Center, a New Orleans organization whose representatives are part of this week's visiting contingent, will be shown this evening at 7:30 in Barn 1. Everyone is invited.

Lingering Malingerers Harbinger of Anger

Yeah, you're all sweating your way through paper hell, but take time to consider the plight of the waitstaff – who not only need to get the same amount of work done as you do, but have to stand around at the end of meals while you dilly-dally over conversation and another cup of coffee, railing about how overwhelmed / buried / stressed / sleep-deprived / unloved / ignored / intimidated / frustrated / ill / depressed / homicidal / technophobic / homesick you are. Needless to say, any sympathy they might perchance feel for you is immediately mitigated by the constantly irritating thought that **YOU'RE KEEPING ME FROM MY WORK AND MY CLASSES AND OH MY GOD IF YOU GO ON ANY LONGER ABOUT HOW TIRED YOU ARE I SWEAR I'M GOING TO GRAB THE SALAD TONGS AND SQUEEZE YOUR HEAD WITH THEM UNTIL IT EXPLODES BWUUAHAHA HA HA HA**. Just a little something to keep in mind next time you find yourself hanging around lunch at 1:36 or dinner at 6:52.

Towin' the Line

The waiters aren't the only ones getting a mite ornery, however. The Front Desk, the Administration, and the grounds crew unite in stating that it's also time to move the unsightly and hazardous conglomeration of vehicles along Rt. 125 – particularly in front of the Annex, where parked cars obstruct the sightlines of drivers attempting to turn out of the main campus driveway. If you're currently parked there, you know where to take your car. And although Leo doesn't actually own a tow truck, he has ways of removing cars from objectionable locations that we'd prefer he not be compelled to employ.

Spouse Flees Family, Mountain for Groupie Life

Last seen around campus on Wednesday morning, Jean Hanff Korelitz has apparently fled to join the summer tour of her favorite performer, Rani Arbo, who swings onto the Green Mountain College campus this Sunday at 1:30. Arbo and her band play, in Jean's words, "a combustion of traditional, folk, rock, and...swing (?), featuring Arbo's fantastic voice and fiddle"; the concert also bears the highly-sought-after but rarely-bestowed "Pizzle Muldizzle Seal of Approval." The performance is part of SolarFest, an all-day affair where your \$15 entry fee gets you Arbo and a lot of other music as well as various exhibits and workshops related to solar energy (but, as Jean writes, "let's face it, who cares? We're in it for the music"). More info at www.solarfest.org or (802) 235-2866.

Bread Loaf Student Refers to Oft-Forgotten "Other Life"; "Oh, That," Hordes Respond

Janet Field-Pickering reports that "in her other life, she's Head of Education at the Folger Shakespeare Library, and she's going to offer two workshops on methods for teaching Shakespeare on Sunday, July 20 and Sunday, July 27 from 3-5 in Barn 1. The workshops will model activities for getting students up on their feet, performing short pieces and delving into Shakespeare's language." A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Office – feel free to sign up for either session, or for both (they will be different), but be sure to put your name down so Janet gets a sense of how many handouts she'll need. She's planning on demonstrating techniques for dealing with soliloquies, but would welcome any other suggestions – so drop her a note if there's something in particular you need help with and she'll try to oblige.

Students Know Neither Author Nor Way to Clues

For only the second time this summer, no one answered the trivia question correctly (although several tried). The words "rapid" and "fast" appeared in headlines yesterday, an admittedly veiled hint that the author in question was Jonathan Swift. We'll see if today's clue is discernible enough (the *Crumb* thinks it is) for Bedell, Broderon, McCarthy, Pederson, et al. to get back in the saddle again.

Don't Fence Me Gin

...could be a song performed by a slightly unsteady Roy Rogers after too many spiked eponymous cocktails, or maybe a warning uttered by a combative and alcoholic leprechaun. But it's actually just the lead-in for this week's Top Ten list:

Top Ten (with an Ace Kicker) New Liquor Board Rules

21. Alcoholic beverages cannot be served on days of the week ending in "y." (DA)
20. Beers found outside the blue ropes will be immediately removed and destroyed. (FS)
19. Alcohol to be consumed only within the thin cord tied outside the Davison Library bathroom. (BBB)
18. State of Vermont now legally recognizes only one drink: a fuzzy maple, equal parts Vermont brewed beer and maple syrup. (DA)
17. Liquor Inspector is not quality control. Please stop asking him to gauge the proof of your homemade hooch. (OCC)
16. Bailey's Irish Cream available only **by request** at breakfast. (WS)
15. Only Kurt and Maggie can hold your legs during a keg stand. (MOA)
14. All beers served with leaflets warning in nine languages that alcohol consumption is the first step in contracting genital warts. (BBB)
13. Never "overserve" David Huddle on tennis courts. (MOA)
12. Students of English **do** have diplomatic immunity at the Robert Frost Cabin. Rage on! (OCC)
11. All literary allusions to "Bacchus" replaced with "Pillsbury Doughboy." (WS)
10. If you bring a girl to a Barn Dance, you can not liquor. (DA)
9. Demonstrating that you know all the words to "Bust A Move" proves that you're old school, not sober. (OCC)
8. Weekly Croutons field trip to Mister Up's cancelled. (WS)
7. Drinking at institutions of higher learning is limited to **Pretty Hard Drinkers**. (DA)
6. Exemplars of rules violations captured on film in sting operation facilitated by Scarlet Letter Society's generous grant to campus photographer Ed Brown. (BBB)
5. Tom Ridge-designed colored ropes indicate danger levels: Tamarack-white; Treman-yellow; Gilmore-red. (MOA)
4. Your 2004 Elizabeth Drew Memorial Lecturer: Betty Ford. (WS)
3. Underage drinkers will **not** be able to obtain alcohol without a fake ID. (FS)
2. Suppressed Desires redubbed "Jane Austen's Gala Victorian Chaste-a-Thon." (MOA)
1. We know you're not happy to see us, so don't hide the beer in your pants. (OCC)

Not much change in the standings, but a strong debut by the Off-Campus Contingent (OCC – yeah, you know them). Men of Annex (MOA) 17; Waitstaff (WS) 15; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 6; Fyler Sisters (FS) 4; Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) 4; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 3; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 3; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 2; Anonymous (A) 1.



THE CRUMB

*"...all ye know on earth,
and all ye need to know."
-John Keats*

Volume 84, Number 15

Monday, July 14, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Of all the professors in Vermont this year, which one first came to Bread Loaf before any of the others, in the summer of 1969?

SCHEDULE

5:00
Madrigalists
Barn

5:00
Yoga
Barn 2

7:30
Jonathan Strong
Reading
Barn

10:00
Frost Reading
Homer Noble Farm

MENU

Braised venison
Bread Loaf style
or quinoa with
dried fruit and
pine nuts;
Delmonico
potatoes; peas and
mushrooms;
cranberry orange
bread; peanut
butter pie for
dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Partly cloudy.
High 83, low 57.

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy.
High 84, low 62.

Wednesday
Showers.
High 80, low 56.

Strong Reading Needs No Strongarming

Porch-sitters will notice a steady trickle of pedestrians all heading in one direction starting at 7:15 or so. Students hard at work in the Library or Apple Cellar will notice their cohorts closing their books, logging off BreadNet, and making for the exits. In case you wouldn't figure it out for yourself, they're all going to be heading for the Barn, where Jonathan Strong will be reading this evening at 7:30. Jonathan will be treating us to an excerpt from a recently completed but as yet unpublished work – but in a display of shrewd marketing savvy, he didn't tell me any more about it, thereby assuring himself a sizable crowd for this world-premiere event.

Regime Change

Jim Maddox departed for Alaska this morning, so Associate Director Emily Bartels steps in for the next week. Plans are already afoot for the construction of a 40' granite statue of Emily to be placed conspicuously in the Barn parking lot, the replacement of *Arcadia* with "Pageant of Homage to Our Glorious Leader," and the rapid assembly of a sizable Brute Squad to thwart what is anticipated to be, upon his return, considerable Maddoxian reluctance to embrace such sweeping changes. Elaine can set up appointments with Glorious Leader if you have pressing concerns or want to ask just how phenomenal the fresh salsa in New Mexico really is.

Changing Regime for Yoga Regimen

The yoga enthusiasts who gather in the Barn from 5-6 Monday through Thursday and from 2-4 on Friday operate under a much more enlightened, rotating and voluntary system of leadership. Anyone who wishes to lead a class or two is directed to the signup sheet outside the Dining Hall.

Wee Small Hours = Great Big Thanks

Kurt Broderson, Maggie Favretti, and Mark Wright unanimously voted to make Lucy Maddox an Honorary Director's Assistant for the remainder of the summer in recognition of her selfless (even if externally compelled) decision to drive Jim to the Burlington airport at 4:00 this morning. Now open to Lucy are the many perks of this sought-after position, including manning the 11:45-1:15 cleanup shift at Saturday's Barn Dance, selecting and hand-roasting and the special "Director's Reserve" cashews, and gaining access to the "Help Yourself" staff cash drawer (oh, I wasn't supposed to tell anyone?).

Pleasant Vermont Evening Means Frost

A relatively mild forecast for this evening means that we'll hold the annual Robert Frost reading tonight at 10 under the stars at the Homer Noble Farm. Your Noble host is Paul Muldoon, who'll undoubtedly have something ready to read, but the rest of the program is up to you. Bring a copy of a favorite Frost poem you'd like to read in addition to the requisite blanket and flashlight; you can park at the farmhouse or take the shuttles that will run from the Inn starting shortly before 10.

Sopranos Enlist Help To Execute Hit

The soprano section of the Madrigalists, which in most summers has to be restrained from drowning out the other three parts, has been suffering an inexplicable shortage of voices this year. We need all the voices we can get on that part to carry the melodies of our repertoire, which ranges from the sublime ("Fair Phyllis") to the ridiculous (The Bread Loaf Fight Song). Of course, we'll welcome you no matter what voice part you sing; rehearsals are Mondays and Thursdays at 5 in the Barn.

New Monarch Hatches Plan for M.Litt.

Fortunately, Emily Bartels' plot is far less pernicious than Claudius'; she'd simply like to reschedule the previously-delayed M.Litt. meeting for tomorrow afternoon at 5 in the Blue Parlor. The meeting is for anyone currently pursuing an M.Litt. and for those interested in hearing more about the program. On Thursday there will be a similar meeting for IRP participants and potential applicants; same time, same place.

Ashes Still Smoking

In an attempt to satisfy this community's seemingly inexhaustible appetite for theater and diminish the prospects of the opportunistic ticket scalpers who would otherwise descend on us, the *Ashes to Ashes* crew has graciously added a **fourth** performance, Wednesday at 9:30, to go with the existing shows Tuesday at 8 and 9:30 and Wednesday at 8. Given that demand seems to be rapidly exceeding supply, please return your tickets to the Front Desk if you've changed your mind and don't plan on going. Tickets are free and available through the Front Desk, but you should act fast to secure seats before you find yourself paying \$118.49 on Ebay for two primo tix sold by someone known only as "maddogmaddox47."

2003 T-Shirt "Very Inn"

Chances are you'll get to the end of the summer and frantically begin accumulating souvenirs to make the intervening Loaf-less ten months somehow bearable. You'll have to plan ahead and act fast, however, if you want this year's Bread Loaf T-shirt, featuring a rendering of an Inn wall and to be printed in the distinct buttermilk-and-green Bread Loaf color scheme; the signup sheet will be taken down tomorrow. The Front Desk wisely ordered a few extra Charlie Orr shirts; they're available to the first half-dozen or so people who come to the Front Desk, present \$10, and provide Ed with a teary, impassioned excuse for why you didn't order one in advance.

Coffeehouse Provides Creative Outlet

Recently appointed Campus Impresario Peter Horn is scouring Bread Loaf for folks whose talents go untapped in the course of ordinary coursework – jugglers, unicyclists, limbo artists, xylophonists, actors and musicians and performers of every sort – in the hopes of including them in this year's Coffeehouse, to be held on July 23. You can reserve your spot on stage by signing up outside the Dining Hall.

Don't Enjoy Your Employ?

The sheet listing appointment times with our Carney, Sandoe representative is usually crammed with names of students planning a job search in the coming year. This year, however, signups have been sparse, and no one is quite sure why. Perhaps everyone is happy in their current positions? Perhaps students have unwisely inferred that the prestige of attending Bread Loaf is so great that it causes employers to arrive unannounced at your doorstep, genuflect, and freely proffer \$124,000 salaries, stock options, and company cars in exchange for your services? Perhaps Bread Loaf has once again had the effect of a soothing anodyne that renders its inhabitants blissfully, albeit dangerously, unaware of the continued existence of a world outside its confines? Whatever the real reason, Elaine reminds everyone that the Carney, Sandoe rep will be here on Thursday, so sign up soon.

Atwell Gone, But Spirit Remains...For Now

Campus Bookie Ed Brown informs everyone that although Nancie Atwell's books are still available for purchase in the Bookstore, they'll be shipped out on Friday morning, so act fast if you were inspired by her Thursday talk and want to introduce her methods into your classroom.

Her Way Is the Highway

Margot Pilon plans to head for Boston this weekend, but has no easy way to get there. If you're driving in that direction and wouldn't mind a traveling companion who'll pay for gas and won't insist that you keep the radio tuned to the "All Muzak, All the Time" station, please drop a note in her box.

Vermont Sun Makes Loaf Rise

A bill has been introduced in the state legislature making it illegal for summer visitors to swoop in and snatch athletic glory out of the grasp of full-year residents, but until it passes, Bread Loaf will continue to dominate local competition. In yesterday's Vermont Sun Triathlon, held at Lake Dunmore, "Team Hot Dog" – Dave Stillman, Dave Leonardis, and Tim Lear – had the fastest overall time (with Dave S. turning in the fastest swim time and Tim the fastest run time). Tim Donahue finished sixth among the 160 individual entrants.

Evaluate Before You Evacuate

Sometime before the end of the summer, please complete the Bread Loaf evaluation forms you will find (or have already found) in your mailboxes today. Frankness is encouraged and anonymity is guaranteed, so don't restrain those critical impulses out of a misguided fear that you'll receive a midwinter letter from the Director informing you that the only space for you is at the Upper Greenland campus, forcing you to fulfill your Group V requirement with "Images of the Walrus in Medieval Icelandic Verse."

Noble Calling

Paul Muldoon and Jean Hanff Korelitz are looking someone to stay at the Homer Noble Farm and care for their dog this Wednesday evening through Saturday. In addition to reveling in the company of the exuberant and well-behaved Angus, there is a substantial chance that you'll receive the incalculable benefits of residing near the Frost Cabin, well within the nimbus of poetic inspiration it still emits. See Jean ASAP if you're interested.

Magical Resurrection On Tap?

On the next two Sundays from 3-5, Janet Field-Pickering will lead workshops on ways to bring Shakespeare to life in the classroom. One only assumes that she is using the verb "bring to life" figuratively and is not planning on actually producing what by now is surely a thoroughly desiccated corpse. Sign up outside the Bread Loaf office if you're eager to find out how to get students "up on their feet," delving into Shakespeare's language through performance. Janet notes that the two workshops will be different, so feel free to sign up for both.

Doll's House Child's Play for Many

After stumping everyone with Thursday's trivia question, the *Crumb* tossed an easy one out on Friday. Liz Bedell, Kurt Broderson, Andrew Pederson, Sean McCarthy, Jorge Rodriguez, and Rachel Anne Lane all identified the mystery author as Henrik Ibsen. I'm not going to drop any hints about the answer to today's trivia question, as you should be able to identify the pool of possible answers and winnow it pretty far down on your own.

Destination Anywhere

Various Directors keep leaving the Mountain for what they claim are "visits to the satellite campuses," but you may have noticed the lack of dispatches sent from said campuses during their "visits" and, upon their return, the curious ambiguity of their responses to questions of the "well, how was it?" variety. All of which make necessary some intrepid detective work and rapid information-gathering to form this week's list, **Top Ten Real Reasons The Directors Keep Leaving**. Since this is a short week, the deadline for submission will be Thursday at 11 AM; the complete list will be published in that day's *Crumb*.



CHOOSE YOUR OWN CRUMB

"The difficulty in life is the choice." – George Moore

Volume 84, Number 16

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

How To Play

Start in **THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE** (#1). At the end of each scene, you will be faced with a choice. Choose wisely, and laurels will crown your glory. Choose poorly, and most unfortunate events may transpire. Or just read all the way through for today's news – but how much fun is that?

Odds & Ends

Which professor toured with *"The Sounds of Singing Youth"* as a child?

SCHEDULE

5:00
M.Litt. Meeting
Blue Parlor

7:15
Adult Volleyball
(not dirty! I promise!)
Field

8:00 & 9:30
Ashes to Ashes
Blue Parlor

MENU

Roasted chicken or stuffed acorn squash with roasted barley & assorted vegetables; grated potatoes with artichokes & vegetarian gravy; popovers; applesauce cake for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Sunny, 85/63.

Tomorrow
AM rain, 78/58.

Thursday
More sun, 83/59.

#1 – THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Your adventure begins as you meet Emily Bartels shortly after breakfast. She says that, contrary to yesterday's *Crumb*, the granite statue she plans to erect is not 40' high; that figure refers only to the height of a section of lower shin. She then says, "I really look good in granite, don't I?"

If you respond, "Why yes, O Exalted One," Emily tells you that "you'd make a good minion; I'd like to see you stick around for a few more years." Go to #2.

If you respond, "I'd like to see you encased in it, yes," Emily proceeds to use her powerful back-channel access to your principal to effect your immediate firing. Go to #4.

#2 – THE M. LITT. MEETING

You find yourself in the Blue Parlor at 5 this afternoon for a meeting of all current M.Litt. students and all others interested in pursuing that degree.

If you decide to test yourself to see if you're worthy of a second advanced degree, go to #14.

If you are racked with indecision and fail to move from the Blue Parlor by 8 tonight, go to #3.

If you decide that you'd rather pursue your dream of becoming an accordion-playing contortionist, go to #5.

If you realize that you can't handle an M.A., much less an M.Litt., and that you should just jump ship, go to #17.

#3 – ASHES TO ASHES

At 8:00 the Blue Parlor begins to fill with excited people who have gotten tickets from the Front Desk. Chris Hutchison and Elizabeth Norment proceed to deliver a staggeringly powerful reading of Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes*. You applaud raucously. They repeat the feat at 9:30 and again tomorrow at 8 and 9:30. They stick around after tomorrow's 9:30 show for an informal discussion.

If you decide that you want to use equally invigorating performance exercises in your classroom, go to #9.

If you're awfully impressed by the actors' talents and decide to get tickets for Arcadia right now, go to #13.

If you're just plain tired and decide to spend the night in the Blue Parlor, go to #24.

If you say, "Hang on – I wrote that play!," go to #27.

#4 – CARNEY-SANDOE MEETINGS

Having been abruptly dismissed from your old job, or perhaps just interested in searching for new employment, you sign up outside the Office for one of Thursday's meetings with a representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, the education world's leading job-search firm.

If you misrepresent yourself as a skilled volleyball coach and need to hone your talents quickly, go to #6.

If you decide that teaching just isn't for you and decide to work with trained seals instead, go to #5.

#5 – COFFEEHOUSE

You have heard that Peter Horn has begun recruiting for the Coffeehouse. You sign up on the sheet outside the Dining Hall. You clean your accordion, practice your contortions, or work through some new tricks with the trained seals in preparation for the big event on July 23.

If you plan to do stand-up comedy and want a way to hone your wit, go to #15.

If you decide that watching professionals is a good way to learn how to turn in a star performance, go to #3.

#6 – VOLLEYBALL COURT

If you might be considered "a child," go to #20.

You arrive on the volleyball pitch at 7:15 sharp, ready to bump, set, spike, or otherwise propel the spheroid over the net. Unfortunately, David Huddle is on the other team, and he spikes one right off your head for the deciding point.

If after recovering consciousness, you smile and say, "No problem, it's all part of the game! And boy, that was a great spike, sir. And would you mind advising my IRP?," go to #8.

If you respond by telling him, "Did I ever tell you that I use La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl in my classroom? It's perfect for lining the hamster's cage," go to #22.

#7 – FROST READING RECAP

You remember how wonderful last night's reading was. How beautifully Mark Valentine recited all those Frost poems from memory! How amazing that Scott Elledge brought recordings of Frost himself! What luck that the spirit of Frost appeared before the assembled pilgrims and spoke to each in turn!

If Frost's ghost told you that you shamed his memory by absolutely butchering "Design," go to #26.

If Frost's ghost whispered stunningly original interpretations of "Mending Wall" in your ear, interpretations you could easily incorporate into an IRP, go to #8.

#8 – I.R.P. MEETING

On Thursday, you go to the Blue Parlor at 5, when Emily Bartels will meet with all students working on an Independent Reading Project or interested in doing one.

If you are too tired to move from the Parlor, go to #24.

If you ask one of your professors if it would be OK if you devote your IRP to a slanderous and unsubstantiated decimation of his or her life's scholarship, go to #21.

#9 – SHAKESPEARE WORKSHOP

You decide to go to Janet Field-Pickering's workshop on getting students on their feet and actively engaged in Shakespeare. You figure she'll have some really useful tips, as she's Head of Education at the Folger Library. The sessions take place this Sunday and next from 3-5.

If you work up enthusiasm by going to Friday's film, go to #12.

If you like performing so much that you wish there were opportunities for aspiring actors, go to #16.

#10 – PAJAMA DANCE

You wear your PJ's (or a passable approximation thereof, if wearing your real bedtime outfit would be too off-putting or controversial) to the Barn for Saturday's dance. You notice how cute and cuddly some of your fellow students look. You spot the person who, in your mind, is destined to be the love of your life. You decide to take the plunge.

If your pickup line improves upon Shakespeare's sonnets, congratulations – you'll make a conjugal trip to the Blue Parlor after the dance. Go to #24.

If it's "For someone so fat, you don't sweat much," go to #25.

#11 – DIRECTOR'S RECEPTION

You dress smartly for tomorrow's Director's Reception at Treman. You approach the bar and request a drink.

If Kurt says "Right away, sir!" or "Coming up, madam," you are clearly a faculty member. You probably know the trivia answer. Go to #14.

If Kurt says, "Look, I'll shove this corkscrew so far up your nose...", you'll want to report such impertinence. Go to #18.

#12 – SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE

You watch *Shakespeare In Love* this Friday at 9. You swoon at Joseph Fiennes and/or Gwyneth Paltrow. You just know that somewhere at Bread Loaf, a soulmate of similar beauty and talent waits for you.

If you attend the Dance in hopes of meeting that person, go to #10.

If, like Gwyneth, you think auditioning might lead to romance, go to #16.

#13 – THE FRONT DESK

You ask Ed Brown for tickets to *Arcadia*. He informs you that you're way too early and in the wrong place altogether. You're hooted away by his trademark brand of withering sarcasm.

If you seek refuge by checking your mail, go to #19.

If you uncork a scathing rejoinder such as "At least I own a collared shirt," go to #23.

#14 – TODAY'S TRIVIA QUESTION

You attempt to guess who the vocalist in question could possibly be. You wonder how Carole Marshall and Kurt Broderson knew that Jonathan Strong attended the 1969 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

If today's question is just too hard and you decide that the Top Ten List is more your speed, go to #15.

If you think it's one of your professors and explain your thinking to him/her by saying, "Once a dork, always a dork," go to #21.

#15 – THE TOP TEN LIST

You decide to submit some ideas for the Top Ten Real Reasons The Directors Keep Leaving Campus. You need inspiration. You go straight to the Men of Annex. You sit on their porch, drink their beer, and attempt to win yourself into their confidence.

If they goad you into giving the finger to the next passing car, you spend years marveling at how coincidental it was that the driver was your school superintendent. Bad luck. Go to #4.

If you try to be witty by saying, "It's amazing how you manage to lead the Top Ten standings even though you don't appear to have any multisyllabic words in your vocabulary," go to #25.

#16 – BARN A – ACTORS MEETING

You come to Barn A tomorrow at 7 because you heard that Directing Workshop students are looking for actors for their first scenes. The meeting will only last a few minutes. You know that each scene will require 10-20 hours of rehearsal, but you are psyched by the opportunity to perform for the community on August 3 or 4.

If you begin your training by attending Ashes to Ashes, go to #3.

If the directors are unanimous in their recommendation that you'd be better suited to a "less rigorous performance environment," go to #5.

#17 – I-89 SOUTHBOUND

As you prepare to depart, you remember that Margot Pilon is looking for a ride to Boston this weekend. Since you're a decent person, and since she offers to pay for gas, and since you need someone to listen to your accumulated sorrows, you offer her a ride. At least your last act at Bread Loaf was one of kindness and generosity. *Start again.*

#18 – CAMPUS EVALUATIONS

You save that evaluation form you received yesterday, nursing grievances and storing up wonderful memories to give the Directors an accurate sense of how the summer went. You know that you don't need to return them until the end of the session.

If the highlight of your summer was the Frost Reading, go to #7.

If you haven't had time to do anything except coursework this summer because you're taking two classes and finishing an IRP, go to #8.

#19 – YOUR P.O. BOXES

Chastened, you see if there's any mail from family or friends.

If you find an invitation to a Director's Reception, go to #11.

If the box is empty, making you feel completely unloved, go to #10.

#20 – YOUNG FOLKS' VOLLEYBALL NIGHT

Because the more competitive volleyball games have proved dangerous to the children who've been coming out to play, the volleyball organizers propose that Tuesday's games be limited to adults and that a more kid-friendly get-together take place on Thursday evenings. Sorry that this is a boring ending. Why don't you start again & see if you can't find a more gripping storyline.

#21 – VERMONT CIRCUIT COURT

Soon, people begin mentioning how they haven't seen you in a while. Your memorial service is less elaborate and more sparsely attended than you had hoped. The professor in question is acquitted on all charges due to Maddox-funneled hush money and a lack of evidence – who'd ever think to look in the Gilmore basement? *Start again.*

#22 – BARN, NEXT MONDAY

You assume the "volleyball incident" is a thing of the past until you attend David Huddle's reading and notice that one of his stories includes a character with your exact name. Unfortunately, he/she clubs baby seals and has embarrassing body odor. Your reputation in tatters, you slink away in shame, never to return. *Start again.*

#23 – TENNIS COURTS

You wrongly assume that Ed's words are mere banter. His face turns steely as he clambers over the counter and says, "No one messes with the Innkeeper." Only Ed will know why there's a body-sized bulge in the clay of the tennis courts the next morning, and he won't tell. He will, however, win points during Wimbleloafs for years to come as a result of the unpredictable bounces your gravesite generates. *Start again.*

#24 – BLUE PARLOR/VT. FOREST

You curl up on the coziest-looking sofa. Eventually, your eyelids sag. You dream that Joseph Battell's portrait speaks to you. It tells you to commune with the Old Pine. You somnambulate into the brisk night air to seek out that venerable tree. Only when your body is found weeks later, completely siphoned of blood by rapacious mosquitoes and trampled by what must have been a huge moose, are you officially declared the 27th victim of the portrait's sinister persuasions. *Start again.*

#25 – BARN, DINING HALL, BREADNET

People can't stop saying lovely things about you all day, which is customary when discussing the recently deceased. *Start again.*

#26 – WOODS NEAR HOMER NOBLE FARM

Walking back to Bread Loaf from the reading, you find yourself mysteriously and worrisomely separated from the group. You struggle on through the underbrush in search of a clearing, or Route 125, or a light in the distance. You find none of these things. Frost wrote of the possibility that all life might end in fire, might end in ice. Yours actually ends in the mouth of a black bear. *Start again.*

#27 – ENGLAND

You appear to be Harold Pinter. What are you doing reading the *Crumb*? Get back to penning brilliant drama and scathing political commentary. *Start again.*

#28 – NIRVANA

Congratulations! You have chosen wisely. The Muses endow you with incredible abilities. Ingenious papers spring unbidden from your fingertips. Copper Ale no longer accumulates around your midsection. You electrify Barn Dances with moves reminiscent of *Solid Gold*. Bread Loaf is renamed in your honor. *The End.*



THE CRUMB

"[I] can perceive no truth
in your report."
-Macbeth's Doctor

Volume 84, Number 17

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Which poet's
work was greeted
by one reviewer
with the phrase
"This will
never do"?

SCHEDULE

Continually
Quarrying,
Hauling, Sculpting
for Colossal
Bartels Statue

5:00
Director's
Reception
Treman

7:00
Directing Wkshp.
Auditions
Barn A

8:00 & 9:30
Ashes to Ashes
Blue Parlor

MENU

Baked scallops on
fresh seabean or
yellow lentils with
tomato & fennel;
steamed rutabagas
and carrots; brown
& wild rice pilaf;
peach & cherry
crisp with ice
cream for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
AM rain.
High 76, low 58.

Tomorrow
Partly cloudy.
High 82, low 59.

Friday
Partly cloudy.
High 77, low 53.

Auditions Give Hope To All Those Seeking Direction

You'd undoubtedly agree that the Directing Workshop students wouldn't be able to do very much without actors willing to help out. Accordingly, the student directors invite all community members interested in performing in the directors' final scenes to a brief meeting this evening at 7 in Barn A. It is anticipated that the average scene will require 10-20 hours of rehearsal over the remainder of the summer, culminating in a performance for the Bread Loaf community on either August 3 or 4. Alan MacVey has Spielberg on speed dial in case truly masterful talent makes itself known, so this could indeed be your big break.

Ashes Turns to Dust After Tonight

Tonight's your last chance to catch Chris Hutchison and Elizabeth Norment in their staged readings of Harold Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes*. The wholly metaphorical curtain will rise at 8 and 9:30 in the Blue Parlor; stick around after the second show for an informal discussion of the play with Chris and Elizabeth. News is that tickets are extremely scarce; check with the Front Desk to see if they have any left, or simply lurk outside the Parlor as showtime nears to see if any seats unwisely go unclaimed.

Reception Returns to Roots

Now that Treman has been refitted to comply with all Vermont State Liquor Board regulations (retinal scan at front door replaces ID check, Kurt and Maggie armed with tasers and empowered to perform citizens' arrests, "invisible fence" installed around perimeter to prevent illegal transport of alcohol off the premises), it will resume its customary role as site of the Wednesday Director's Reception starting today. You will, no doubt, marvel at how subtly these technological innovations have been incorporated into the charmingly 19th-century Treman décor. The mysterious Diaphanous Spirit of the south meadow has not made its annual appearance yet, although the likelihood of it venturing out in what will probably be moist conditions seems fairly remote.

Signups Assure Horn of Plenty

Further down the Dining Hall bulletin board, the signup sheet for the annual Coffeehouse is filling up rapidly with local talent. The big show is a week from tonight at 8:30, so keep thinking about which of your hidden abilities you will unveil to an awestruck audience. As is usually the case, the number of signup sheets can create confusion; please do not confuse the Coffeehouse and Golf Scramble signup sheets, as taking divots out of the Barn floor would incur Leo's wrath, and showing up on the first tee with your acoustic guitar would be met with general ridicule.

Crime and Punishment

It has also been brought to the *Crumb's* attention that reserve books for the classes of Michael Armstrong and other professors have been disappearing from the Library shelves for days at a time. To echo today's mystery phrase, **THIS WILL NEVER DO**. Consider this warning your final polite reminder to keep reserve books within Library walls (or to return them surreptitiously if you are the scurrilous fellow or gentlewoman who has removed them). Otherwise, Associate Director Emily Bartels will soon let slip the dogs of war and allow Michael Armstrong to administer upon the malefactors punishments of his own devising. He's English, remember, so think Tower of London, heads spitted upon pikes, boiling oil, etc., etc.

Ed Administers Shots

Although Ed Brown does, in fact, have a medical "degree" from Hollywood Upstairs Medical School (which also counts *The Simpsons'* Dr. Nick Riviera among its graduates), I wouldn't recommend getting your rubella booster from him. I would, however, recommend that you pay him \$12 by next Wednesday if you'd like a copy of any of the lovely photographs he took of the school, the waiters, the seniors, BLTN, the faculty, or the staff. Note that fully autographed staff photos from past years have gone for as much as \$2.98 on Ebay, so look at this as an investment opportunity as much as anything.

The Rites of Swing

Nothing releases the pent-up frustrations of final-week paper hell like beating the bejeezus out of a helpless little golf ball. You'll have that opportunity if you sign up for the 3rd Usually-Annual Bread Loaf Golf Scramble, which tees off on Sunday, August 3 at 10 AM. A signup sheet is posted outside the Dining Hall; \$10 paid to Tim Donahue or Jon Freeman gets you in the field. Note that the "scramble" format of the tournament makes it friendly to players of all skill levels, as bad shots tend not to count (how convenient!). Talk to Tim or Jon if you have questions.

The Unbearable Lateness of Being

Elaine informs the *Crumb* that several new students still have not scheduled a meeting with Jim or Emily. The *Crumb* implores such recalcitrant students to set up such a meeting soon, lest any future recommendations sent out by the Bread Loaf office begin with the phrase "Although she shows a disturbing complacency about keeping appointments..."

Waiters Beret-ke With Tradition, Look Fedora-ble

No doubt you noticed the Waitstaff's distinctive chapeaux and millinery at dinner last night; what you don't know, however, are the alternatives rejected before the Hat Day consensus was finally reached. Be thankful you didn't have to experience Odyssean Suitors' Night (in husband's absence, Lucy Maddox fends off increasingly vocal overtures of hordes of eligible men), or Rime of the Ancient Mariner Night (waiters circle with pitchers of water, won't pour you any) or Distinctive Undergarment Night (actually, who says that hasn't occurred already?). Plans to combine Faculty Wait Night with Crazy Hair Night were scrapped as being somewhat redundant.

Croutons Improve Commencement Meal

For those in need of child care during the graduation night festivities, Croutons will offer a special Saturday evening service on August 9. Sign up at the Front Desk if you have small fry who might not enjoy the speeches and ceremonies as much as you undoubtedly will.

Romantic Will Wins Groupie Gwyneth

Gwyneth Paltrow, Judi Dench, Tom Stoppard and many others took home Academy Awards for their contributions to *Shakespeare In Love*, showing this Friday at 9 in the Barn. The film presents a highly entertaining, if highly apocryphal, version of the composition of *Romeo and Juliet*; more surprisingly, it also provides the only known example of someone visibly swooning over *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, held by most to be one of the Bard's decidedly lesser works.

On the Road

The deadline for submissions to **Top Ten Real Reasons the Directors Keep Leaving** is tomorrow at 11 AM (there's no *Crumb* on Friday); the Men of Annex and the Waitstaff face stiff competition, judging from the quality and quantity of submissions already received.

Bartels Plans "Colossus of Roads"

The *Crumb* is proud to bring to you an exclusive update on the giant Bartels statue currently being assembled in the set shop behind the Inn. Exalted Empress Of All She Surveys Bartels divulged these exciting details in a closed-door interview with the *Crumb* Bum (observed by a cadre of her Swiss Guards) yesterday afternoon.

- The finished statue will bestride Route 125 imposingly, instilling in first-year students a proper degree of unmitigated fear.
- Construction of the "two vast legs of stone" is complete, although they remain "trunkless" as of yet.
- The Theater Crew's team of sculptors has been instructed to give the visage a "frown, and wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command."
- The pedestal will bear the inscription "My name is Emily Bartels, Queen of Queens: Look upon my work, ye Mites, and Despair!"

Empress Bartels concluded by expressing confidence that "generations of travelers from antique lands" would come to Bread Loaf to view the statue and report back on the sheer grandeur and power of the work.

Absence of Guesses Suspicious

Not only did no one know that Emily Bartels was the member of "The Sounds of Singing Youth" (except for Lucy Maddox, who dished the dirt, and Emily herself, who looked as if she'd prefer to forget those times), no one even filed a guess with the *Crumb* office. Suspicions have been raised that Emily reached into the "Directors' Discretionary Fund" and quietly passed hush money to the most likely squealers – Broderson, Bedell, Pederson, McCarthy, et al. Today's question shifts from gossip back to literary history – can you guess which poet could have aroused such ire?

The Crumb

"...they did nothing but go a-visiting, sit about, and tell stories, though they worked hard in summer. Yet it is not a long vacation they get..."

-Henry David Thoreau

Volume 84, Number 18

Thursday.

Odds & Ends

Which Vermont faculty member once worked on a pig farm?

Schedule

Today

IRP Meeting

5:00, Blue Parlor

Madrigalists, 5:00

Basketball

7:00, Pepin Gym

Volleyball, 7:15

Gilmore, 9:00

Tomorrow

Shakespeare In Love

9:00, Barn

Saturday

Dance, 9:00

Sunday

Softball, 2:00

Shakespeare Wkshp.

3:00-5:00, Barn 1

Ultimate, 4:00

Blue Parlor, 7:30

Menu

BBQ spare ribs or green bean & eggplant gratin; baked sweet potato wedges; corn & pimentos; toll house pie for dessert.

Weather

Today

Partly cloudy, 80/58.

Tomorrow

Partly cloudy, 76/54.

Saturday

Partly cloudy, 77/55.

Sunday

Partly cloudy, 81/64.

Get Away From It All

Actually, all of it is going to get away from **you**. Tomorrow brings a raft of closings to Bread Loaf – so transact all business with the Office, the copy shop, the Bookstore, and the Cornwall Clinic today. The Dining Hall switches to its weekend walk-through schedule beginning with tonight's dinner. There will not be an afternoon van run downtown tomorrow. Fortunately, the fact that Bread Loaf spins in an orbit entirely different from the rest of the world works to your advantage, as the rest of Vermont will be business-as-usual. Lastly, there will be no *Crumb* tomorrow; should you crave a daily dose of verbiage, we refer you to the copious electronic *Crumb* archives in the CyberBarn.

Some of you, no doubt, plan to head off campus for the weekend. For those of you sticking around, however, your Cruise Social Directors have been hard at work putting together the following activities:

English Country House Tour

Ever the prepared Theatre Manager, Faye Christensen announces that tickets for *Arcadia* will shortly be available through the hospitable and we-aim-to-please attitude of the Front Desk. Seating is limited, so tickets are required for entrance, but they're **free**; grab yours before it's too late, as the summer's major production always attracts lots of off-campus dramatophiles and frequently sells out. Faye also needs ushers for the show, a job that comes with the significant perk of being able to reserve the best seats in the house in advance. "Not even Directors who've been made into statues can claim that honor," Faye notes. She needs four ushers for each of the five performances (7/30-8/3); contact her if you're interested in helping out.

Job Search Resumes (Mon. Only)

Rice Bryan from Carney, Sandoe writes:

"Dear Bread Loaf folks: Apologies for having to cut short my day! But not to worry, as I'd be happy to set up a time to speak on the phone about a job search. Also, my colleague Jonathan Ball will be returning to this campus Monday, July 21 with appointments from 1 to 5. Drop me an e-mail at rice.bryan@carneysandoe.com or give me a call at 800-225-7986. Thanks."

Please note that the sign-up sheet for Monday is on the bulletin board outside the Bread Loaf office and that if no one signs up by Monday morning, Jonathan will not arrive.

Curl Up With a Good Audio Book

The most recent data available tell us that only seven of the fifty-odd Barn chairs are actually suitable for "curling up in," but that won't deter most of the community from packing the Barn on Monday at 7:30 to hear David Huddle read from his work. For initiates to the Vermont campus, here's your chance to find out why his work has been garlanded with just about every synonym for "wonderful" you can find in Roget's.

Try Year-Round Schooling

Emily Bartels reminds everyone currently engaged in an IRP (Independent Reading Project) or planning to embark on one to meet this afternoon at 5 in the Blue Parlor.

Scary Story By Campfire

While the *Crumb* possesses no advance information of the identity of tonight's Gilmore reader or of his/her selection(s), surely the stylistic nightmare that is *Ellen* will once again make listeners wince in pain or recoil

in horror. The festivities run from 9 until – well, until who knows when, especially given the absence of Friday obligations.

Visit The Original Globe Theater!!

You'll come to the Barn this Friday at 9 to watch *Shakespeare In Love*. You'll be swept into Elizabethan London. You'll watch *Romeo and Juliet* unfold as if you were at the Globe. You'll think you're eating Elizabethan snack food instead of complimentary popcorn. You'll believe that someone like Joseph Fiennes or Gwyneth Paltrow will eventually recognize your talent and beauty and become your one true love. Then the movie will end, you'll wander back home, and Shakespeare will revert from a charming and witty screen character back to the hatefully obfuscatory creator of *Coriolanus*' gendered structures of sociopolitical hegemony, on which you're expected to hold forth for ten freakin' pages by next Wednesday.

Sports Fantasy Camps

This weekend provides ample opportunities to burn off some of the accumulated Otter Creek/Ben & Jerry's/"Frenchy's FennelFest 2003" calories. Basketball and volleyball each have their regularly scheduled meetings tonight; Wimbleloaf heads into second-round matches; Ultimate Frisbee will convene as usual on Sunday at 4; golfers should sign up outside the Dining Hall for the August 3rd Scramble.

Sweat To The Oldies

All contracts issued to Bread Loaf DJ's stipulate that the following songs, albeit somewhat dated, appear with regularity on Barn Dance playlists: "Dancing Queen," "It's the End of the World," and "I Will Survive." These and other more current sounds will make the Barn bounce this Saturday from 9-1. It's a Pajama Dance, so come appropriately dressed. Kurt and Maggie will, as always, serve to those who bring proper ID – no word on whether they'll provide milk and cookies or read everyone a bedtime story upon the music's conclusion.

Wrap Up Weekend With Blue Parlor

Watch bulletin boards or listen during mealtime announcements for the identities of this Sunday's Blue Parlor readers. Then show up in the Parlor itself at 7:30 to hear four or five of your peers present their poetry, short stories, nonfiction, or creative work belonging to some other medium.

Visit Our Souvenir Shop Before You Go

Act now to forestall pangs of Bread Loaf withdrawal by ordering copies of Ed Brown's photos – All-School (clear enough for you to identify everyone), Faculty (faces large enough to allow for addition of Magic Marker-ed mustaches, eyepatches, gaps in teeth, crazy hair, etc.), Staff (suitable for posting on dartboard), Waiters, Seniors, or BLTN. 8X10 prints will cost you \$12 and must be ordered by next Wednesday.

New Fitness Craze: "Shakaerobics"

If you're looking to get up on your feet while exercising your brain, sign up outside the Office for Janet Field-Pickering's Shakespeare workshop, to be held this Sunday from 3-5. Janet, Head of Education at the Folger Shakespeare Institute, will be demonstrating ways to generate Bardolatry in your students through performance and other physical activity.

Vermont Safari Tours

Lindsay Li and Emmie Watson report a "four-minute encounter with a moose yesterday afternoon at 2:47 PM on Highway 125 North." According to them, the moose "stood, turned, and disapproved of our presence." The envious, persnickety, and still mooseless *Crumb* Bum believes, however, that the apparent precision of their report merely attempts to obscure the fact that there IS no "Highway 125 North," a factual error that casts the accuracy of their sighting into serious doubt. The *Crumb* Bum also believes that Lea Kelley's purported sighting was actually of a chipmunk and involved a "trick of the light," and that Bernie Safko's fifty digital photos of his moose were lifted straight from *National Geographic*.

Professor Still Regrets Moment *Crumb* Heard This Life Story

Kurt Broderson, Liz Bedell, and Andy Pederson were back in fine form yesterday, identifying Wordsworth as the poet whose work was deemed unacceptable in an *Edinburgh Review* article. I had another "name that author" question planned for today, but this little factoid that came to my attention was simply too rich to pass up. Guesses to the *Crumb* by Monday at 11; hints somewhere in headlines.

"What We REALLY Did On Our Summer Vacations," By Jim and Emily

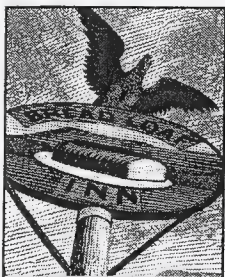
Top Ten-Plus REAL Reasons The Directors Keep Leaving

25. Because Ed Brown said, "Leave – or *else*." (FD)

24. Accidentally left very special blankie at home. (JHK)

23. Runaway success of "Venison à la Bread Loaf" prompts trip to get hold of some ELK meat. (DDC)
22. Visiting tax-exempt, Cayman Islands-based secret headquarters of "BL Inc." (AOCC)
21. Even amid budget cuts, cheaper to fly to Canada and purchase duty-free cashews by the metric ton. (MOA)
20. Only *American Idol* tour stop with available tickets was Sitka, Alaska. (JHK)
19. Attending Vermont Plumbing Academy in hopes of solving library bathroom dilemma. (WS, DDC)
18. Bartels attending high-level negotiations to keep Rutgers in the Big East. (FD)
17. Tired of being snubbed by Guys of Gilmore. (JHK)
16. Now that you mention it, have the two of them ever been seen together? Curious... (FD)
15. For security purposes, Bartels sent to same "undisclosed location" as Dick Cheney. (WS)
14. Tired of their table at dinner being OUTSIDE the blue ropes. (DDC)
13. Hoping to soak up rays while filing Jayson Blair-style dispatches from "other campuses." (JHK)
12. Stockpiling leftover Y2K water for debut of the Guadalajara campus. (MOA)
11. To finalize and ink deal with Betty Ford for next year's Drew Lecture. (FD)
10. A few days of extreme mountain biking at Killington returns them to Bread Loaf refreshed, renewed, and with nice tight buns. (AOCC)
9. String of Trout Almondine dinners forces Directors to bolster diet with 39-cent wings at Mister Up's. (WS)
8. Surreptitiously went home to nail special Coffeehouse dance routine. (FS)
7. A little freaked out by waitstaff's "Funny Hat Night." (WS)
6. Must continually monitor temperature of cryogenically frozen Robert Frost. (MOA)
5. Taping for new reality TV series, "Jim Millionaire" (WS) / Emily featured in Harold Bloom's new reality TV series, "Extreme Intellectual Makeover." (MOA)
4. Lost cat ploy worked the first time. (JHK)
3. Supplementing meager "stipendiary emolument" with Rutland paper route. (MOA)
2. Fewer bugs at 30,000 feet. (FS)
1. Sick of all those nerdy literature geeks. (WS)

The Standings: Men of Annex (MOA) 22; Waitstaff (WS) 21; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 8; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 6; Fyler Sisters (FS) 6; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 6; Front Desk (FD) 4; Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) 4; Another Off-Campus Contingent (AOCC) 2; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 2; Anonymous (A) 1.



ODDS & ENDS

In the early days of the Bread Loaf Inn, the published rates were 75 cents for dinner, \$1 for an oyster supper, and \$2 for a full day's board. But who could eat for only 50 cents a day?

SCHEDULE

Afternoon
Carney, Sandoe
Meetings
Blue Parlor

5:00
Madrigalists
Barn

7:30
David Huddle
Reading
Barn

MENU

Chicken fajitas or
salsa burritos;
Mexican stuffed
potatoes; corn &
green peppers;
Tex-Mex
cornbread;
Mississippi mud
cake for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Thunderstorms.
High 77, low 65.

Tomorrow
Scattered T-storms.
High 78, low 62.

Wednesday
Scattered T-storms.
High 77, low 61.

THE CRUMB

"What will ensue hereof, there's none can tell,
but by bad courses may be understood"
-York to King Richard II

Volume 84, Number 19

Monday, July 21, 2003

Charting A New Course?

Every summer, about this time, you see people whom, even in this intimate community, you've never seen before. And yet they appear to be normal, enrolled Bread Loaf students - they carry large texts with them that are clearly not pleasure reading (i.e., *The Mill on the Floss*, *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*), they laugh knowingly at any references to "fennel" or "blue rope" or "Ed Brown," and they casually incorporate words such as "dialectic" into everyday conversation. Who are these people? The *Crumb* has the answer. They are enrolled in Middlebury's "Half-a-Loaf" mini-master's program, which begins after long weekend and offers one half-credit for students desperate to graduate ahead of schedule or afraid they might not pass one of their current courses. This summer's course offerings are as follows:

BL 117. David Huddle: A Survey Mr. Huddle Himself / M 7:30 PM

A thorough examination of the published and unpublished writings of David Huddle. Attendance at this evening's Barn reading is **strongly** recommended, as it is rumored that Mr. Huddle will be reading pieces that have not yet been published. Students' grades will be determined by weighing equally the quality of their written work and the degree of sportsmanship they display as they inevitably succumb to Mr. Huddle in a spirited tennis match. *Texts*: David Huddle, *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl*; *The Story of a Million Years*; *Intimates*; *Only the Little Bone*; *Summer Lake*; *Winning Doubles Strategies*; *Steve Earle Fan Club Newsletter* (bimonthly); *Ha, Ha, I Get To Live In Vermont All Year Round And Most Of You Don't*; *How To Look Good in Seersucker*; *The Collected Gilmore Readings*.

BL 666. Disguise, Dance, and Desire: Three Tropes in Modern Performance Waitstaff / Sat 9 PM

An interdisciplinary course in which students are expected to engage in honest self-analysis to determine their Suppressed Desire, journey to Middlebury or Burlington to purchase clothing and/or accessories to make manifest that Suppressed Desire in various fabrics and materials, and choreograph an original routine to be performed at some point during the dance. *Texts*: Euripedes, *The Bacchae*; Edgar Allan Poe, "The Masque of the Red Death"; Andre Dubus, *Dancing After Hours*.

BL 1392. Canonical Coffeehouse: The Hidden Talents of Famous Authors Mr. Horn / W 8:30

A critical re-examination of several authors' careers, taking into particular account hobbies, skills, and pursuits whose connections to their well-known works remain scandalously underexplored. In lieu of papers, students will prepare a short act showcasing their own talents, to be performed at this Wednesday's Coffeehouse. Prior registration required; sign up on the sheet posted outside the Dining Hall. *Texts*: Ralph Ellison, *Make Yourself Invisible in Seven Easy Steps*; John Steinbeck, *Turning Grapes of Wrath into Prizewinning Merlot*; August Wilson, *The Piano Lesson Turned Me Into A Virtuoso*!

BL 20. Native American Playwrights In Person William Yellow Robe / T 5:00

A fortunate opportunity for students to learn about the work of William Yellow Robe and of other Native American playwrights through a conversation with Mr. Yellow Robe himself, to be held tomorrow afternoon at 5 in Barn 1. No required reading, but extra credit available to all those who extend Mr. Yellow Robe a warm welcome upon seeing him around campus today or tomorrow.

BL 406. Novels of Manners: Etiquette and Hospitality on the Mountain All / Starting T 6:00 PM

In anticipation of the arrival this week of twenty or so visitors from the National Writing Project, students enrolled in this course will examine issues of proper behavior in classic literature to ensure that our guests feel welcomed and at home during their sojourn at Bread Loaf. *Texts*: Austen, *Complete Works*; Emily Post, *Etiquette* (8th ed.); Nick Hornby, *How to be Good*.

BL ∞. The Lost Art of Conversation Mr. Strong / T 9 PM

A discussion-centered course, meeting on Tuesday at 9 in the Blue Parlor, to examine issues of class, race, age, and gender at Bread Loaf. Students are encouraged to come to the discussion with comments on what their Bread Loaf experience has been like and what can be done to make this an even better place. Further discussions devoted more to gay and lesbian life, here and at home, will follow. *Text*: Raymond Carver, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Loaf*.

BL 595. Advanced Jobseeking. Carney, Sandoe
Representatives / M 1:30-5:00

Students will attempt to connect their Bread Loaf experiences with their teaching careers by speaking to a representative from Carney, Sandoe & Associates about their job placement services. Signups available outside the Office for this afternoon's remaining meetings. *Texts:* Rodney Dangerfield, *Back to School*; Annie Dillard, *Teaching A Stone To Talk* (for highly advanced Biology/Magic teachers only).

BL #1. Competitive Poetry Writing Mr. Huddle
and Mr. Muldoon / By W 5:00

An overview of the regulations surrounding the Bread Loaf Poetry Contest. We will take trips outside the classroom to find Judy Jessup's office, where all entries must be submitted by 5 on Wednesday) and we will discuss effective and ineffective strategies for submitted poems (including debates about the merit of opening your work with "There once was a man from..." and studying whether judges tend to enjoy poems about rainbows or fluffy white kittens more). *Texts:* Please arrive at the first class having read the following prizewinning poems: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Lines of Love to My Favorite Judge"; Robert Frost, "Poem Attached To a Fifty-Dollar Bill"; Ezra Pound, "If It's Incomprehensible, Maybe They'll Think It's Deep."

BL XXL. Fashioning a Tradition: Local Sartorial Trends Front Desk Staff / Through Sat 8:30 AM

Each participant in this course receives a Charlie Orr T-Shirt, now available for pickup at the Front Desk. Prior registration is required to receive a T-shirt (unless you wear a Medium, in which case the Front Desk has a couple of extras); no prior registration required to join in Saturday's Charlie Orr Run. *Texts:* Vermont Board of Tourism, *What To Wear When Every Day Brings Three Widely Differing Weather Patterns*; Jim Maddox (editor), "Tie or Tee?: The Luftig/Muldoon Debates."

BL 17½. Playgoing Ms. Christensen / Next W-Sun
8 PM

While several courses at Bread Loaf focus on the art of creating work suitable for performance or publication, not enough attention is paid to the complementary (and, in the case of *Arcadia*, complimentary) act of attending plays. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with the location of the Front Desk, where *Arcadia* tickets will be made available for pickup soon and will largely sell out soon after that. Applauding techniques and intermission protocol will also be studied; attendance at one or more performances of *Arcadia* is essential. Students wishing extra credit should see Ms. Christensen and volunteer their services as ushers for any of next week's five performances, in return for which they will be able to select the best seats in the house. *Texts:* Baldwin, *The Price of the Ticket*; D.H. Lawrence, "Tickets, Please"; Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*.

BL $e=mc^2$. Top Ten List as Art Form Men of
Annex / By F 11:00

When we think of "literature," too often our perspectives are limited to novels, poetry, drama, and the essay, without taking into consideration authors' repeated forays into the radical form of the Top Ten List. The Men of Annex will lead discussions on how to "push the envelope" without "crossing the line," how to tell the difference between mere "funny" and the highly preferable "ha-ha funny," and to which specific forms of bribery and/or threats the *Crumb* Bum responds best. Students will be expected to submit to the *Crumb* a clever and original list of ideas for this week's topic, **Top Ten Words or Phrases That Will Never Appear in a Bread Loaf Paper**. *Texts:* Emily Dickinson, "Top Ten Fun Activities for the Voluntarily Housebound"; Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Top Ten Funniest Things People Have Thought Hester's 'A' Meant"; Thomas Pynchon, "Top Ten Hints About How To Find Where I Live."

BL $x=2y+6$. The Art of Deduction Mr. Crumb / By
T 11:00

An introductory course in the theory and strategy of formulating correct guesses to the *Crumb*'s daily trivia question. Open to all community members except Rebecca Freeman (a.k.a. "Mrs. Crumb"), who was the only student to place out of this course by guessing that Jenny Green-Lewis was the professor who spent part of her youth on a pig farm. (The title of her Woolf/Eliot course was scattered throughout the headline "Professor Still Regrets Moment *Crumb* Editor Heard This Life Story.") And no, Rebecca received no privileged access to *Crumb* sources, or to the vault where each day's answer is stored. I swear. *Texts:* Stanley Kramer, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*; Johnson and Blanchard, *Who Moved My Cheese?*; Robert Zemeckis, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*; Edward Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*



ODDS & ENDS

Which famous writer (pictured above) was tremendously fond of dogs and said she identified with their submissive nature because she was discouraged to speak throughout her childhood?

SCHEDULE

5:00

William Yellow Robe
Barn 1

7:15

Damp Volleyball
Field

9:00

Discussion Group
Blue Parlor

MENU

Salmon in parchment and white wine or spicy tricolor pasta and cheese; mushrooms, onions, & peppers; oatmeal bread; broiler cake for dessert.

WEATHER

Today

Thunderstorms.
High 78, low 61.

Tomorrow

(Sigh) T-storms.
High 76, low 62.

Thursday

Don't ask.
High 76, low 62.

THE CRUMB

"I am reading it more
and enjoying it less."
-John F. Kennedy

Volume 84, Number 20

Tuesday, July 22, 2003

William Yellow Robe Visits

Renowned Native American playwright William Yellow Robe, author of *Where the Pavement Ends: Five Native American Plays* (among his many works) and Artistic Director of the Wakiknabe Theater Company, will be speaking about his work and the work of other Native American playwrights in Barn 1 this afternoon at 5:00. Everyone is invited to attend.

Focus Group Broadens Focus

Word comes from Jonathan Strong that the sexual orientation discussion group has expanded its focus, naturally enough, to issues of class, age, and gender here at Bread Loaf. The breadth of such a conversation will, it is hoped, make tonight's meeting appealing to the entire campus; Jonathan hopes that all those interested in discussing general issues of life at Bread Loaf (how has it seemed to you this year?) will join the discussion group at 9 in the Blue Parlor.

The Costumes of the Country

Dress as your Suppressed Desire, or secret identity, or just put together a cool costume carrying no latent psychological significance whatsoever – but definitely don't miss this year's Suppressed Desires extravaganza, beginning Saturday at 9 in the Barn. The Waitstaff has asked the *Crumb* to dispel some of the more heated rumors flying about campus in the wake of yesterday's announcement that they will be organizing this year's dance. Aproned servers will not circulate through the dance floor bearing pitchers of Otter Creek and asking if you'd like a "top-off"; you'll have to visit Kurt, Maggie, and Mark for liquid sustenance. Faculty will not have an area of the Barn reserved for their dancing and the dancing of their families; they will be forced to mingle with the unwashed rabble. Don't let either of these minor details stop you from dropping by what's sure to be the party of the summer.

Closing Remarks

In what is quite possibly another transparent ploy to foment panic and generate business, Ed Brown announces that foreseeable yet unavoidable circumstances will force the Bookstore to be closed all day Thursday. Therefore, make your way to the Annex basement tomorrow or suffer the consequences of writing a ten-page essay without the energy boost provided by Goldfish or Kettle Chips, fending off malevolent insects without the aid of Off!, or yearning for a little pleasure reading without easy access to a copy of Boethius.

Front Desk Staff Has Tix

...and they're itching to give them to you. Five performances of *Arcadia* await you next week; your only duty is to grab tickets for the nights you'd like to attend. In anticipation of the usual runaway popularity of the summer's major production, Faye Christensen has wisely instituted a strict seat-rationing program. You'll be allowed to take a ticket for yourself as well as a couple extra for friends, but if you need more than four or have any special requests, you'll have to talk to Faye in person (and she's already indicated that statue-less Directors seeking comfortable ottomans, freely poured complimentary Chardonnay, and surtitles projected over the stage are plumb out of luck).

Front Desk Staff Has Pix

Tomorrow's the deadline for ordering the BLSE photo(s) of your choice. Simply give \$12 per print to Ed, who will get suitable-for-framing copies to you by summer's end.

Students Do Verse, Hope For Best

If this summer has inspired you to pen original and stunningly beautiful verse, or if you arrived at Bread Loaf with work you've since tweaked and polished into presentable form, why not submit your *magnum opi* to the Bread Loaf Poetry Contest? All you need to do by 5 PM tomorrow is give Judy Jessup one or two poems, each no more than forty lines long. Put your name on a separate sheet of paper along with your submissions, so that judges David Huddle and/or Paul Muldoon don't spot your name and unfairly penalize you for having cut them off in the Salad Bar line the other day.

Should you desire to enter the competition but fret at the lack of viable ideas, the *Crumb* Bum brings good news. Inspired to generosity by the success of last night's reading, David Huddle has sold to the *Crumb* – at what seems a ridiculously low price – topics considered, but ultimately not selected, by his workshops here and at UVM. For some reason David added the disclaimer that these topics may seem "inane" or "unpromising" or "deeply, fundamentally flawed," but such language, I'm sure, doesn't do justice to their boundless potential for yielding prize-winning verse.

Bargain Bin Poetry Topics – from David Huddle

Mule	Duran Duran	Erik Estrada
Hermeneutics	Men of Annex	Ampersand
Chee-Tos	Gravy Boat	<i>Porky's II</i>
Bowflex	Dust Bunnies	Unwaxed Floss
Beetle Bailey	Cubic Zirconium	Tartar Sauce

Venti, Vidi, Vici

Loosely translated, that's "I came to the Coffeehouse, I drank lots of coffee at the Coffeehouse, I totally rocked at the Coffeehouse." Bread Loaf's annual variety show kicks off tomorrow at 8:30 in the Barn, and if you don't go, here's fair warning that you'll feel mighty out of the loop the next day when mealtime conversations will be dominated by talk of previously unknown and subsequently legendary talents. No word on whether Master of Ceremonies Peter Horn will still permit last-minute additions to the program; you'll have to plead with him directly if you suddenly wish to have your talents as a rhythmic gymnast, Concerto for Triangle virtuoso, or yodeler included in the show.

Answer's A Horse (Of Course, Of Course)

Rebecca Freeman, Nat Waters, and Kurt Broderson all correctly guessed that while your dinner at the Bread Loaf Inn would cost between \$.75 and \$1, your horse could eat for only fifty cents. Apparently more numerous and more blatant clues are needed to coax more guesses from the community, so today you get your normal headline hint as well as the picture on the front page, which should help you narrow things down considerably. (A clue: it's not Kerouac.)

Unwritten Rules

This week's Top Ten List rewards succinctness, which immediately places the Front Desk at the decided disadvantage of needing to somehow pare down Ed Brown's inevitable fustian harangues to a reasonable length. Give your **Top Ten Words or Phrases That Will Never Appear In A Bread Loaf Paper** to the *Crumb* by Friday at 11 for potential publication in that day's issue.

Your 15 Minutes Of Fame - Coming Up

If an out-of-body experience is just the tonic for what is likely becoming an increasingly stressful and deadline-ridden summer, slope on over to the Barn on Friday for *Being John Malkovich*, in which a harried John Cusack and a surprisingly frumpy Cameron Diaz (really, there oughta be a law) stumble upon a portal that leads you into the fabled actor's cranium for fifteen minutes. What you may not know about the film, however, is that director Spike Jonze suffered through numerous decidedly inferior and less popular incarnations before hitting on the formula that garnered Academy Award nominations for him, screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, and actress Catherine Keener. Among *Malkovich's* ill-fated brethren are the following forgettable flicks:

***Being Sacvan Bercovitch*:** Concept of being able to experience another individual's reality was strikingly original, but viewers tired of fifteen-minute mind-trips spent poring over galleys of inscrutable texts or contemplating ideological constructions in American literary history; film's climax, in which guest possessor Keanu Reeves finds himself stumbling through speech on "Images of the Jeremiad in 18th-Century New England Poetry" in front of MLA Convention, struck audiences as dispiriting and needlessly humiliating to both figures.

***Being Peter Bogdanovich*:** At first an appealing concept (portal travelers enter Bogdanovich's mind and help him direct *Paper Moon*, *The Last Picture Show*, and other masterpieces), project eventually scotched because focus groups were just too disoriented by the whole "film-within-a-film" concept.

***Being Ivan Denisovich*:** Adapted from Alexander Solzhenitsyn's short novel *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, the portal in this film leads into the head of the protagonist, a prisoner in a Siberian work camp. The unrelenting misery of laying brick, foraging for food, and staying warm were considered "too down" by the producers, who brought in script doctors to inject a little levity through a goofy supervisor along the lines of Colonel Klink and a version of "Jailhouse Rock" inspiringly belted by Celine Dion; the result, unfortunately, was a straight-to-video bungle.

***Being Lolita Davidovich*:** Never really got off the ground, because let's face it — who really wants to spend their fifteen precious minutes suffering through such Davidovich cinematic clunkers as *Jungle 2 Jungle* and *Hollywood Homicide*?

***Being Goran Ivanisevic*:** Cinderella-story opening (Ivanisevic wins 2001 Wimbledon while under the surprisingly skillful puppeteering of Regis Philbin, of all people) gradually devolves into torpor and stagnation as a sullen Ivanisevic opts for retirement instead of enduring the on-court ineptitude of subsequent possessors.

***Being Slobodan Milosevic*:** Consistently compelling in the early going as entrants gain access to the Serbian leader's head during his International Criminal Court trial (legal experts now theorize that his potentially disastrous decision to serve as his own counsel was the work of a particularly impish possessor), the film dwindles into tedium as the script calls for most subsequent fifteen-minute windows to yield only the drudgery of stamping out Dutch license plates in the prison foundry.



THE CRUMB

*"It's a bona fide piece of printed matter.
This fella's a regular Belasco. It's a triumph!
What thoroughness! What realism!"
-The Owl-Eyed Man*

Volume 84, Number 21

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Which Vermont professor used to wait tables, had the Beach Boys as customers for a week during a tour stop, and reports that they were obnoxious, rude, and generally horrid?

SCHEDULE

5:00

Director's
Reception
Tremen

Poetry Contest
Deadline
Inn Seminar Room

7:00

Ultimate
Field

8:30

Coffeehouse
Barn

MENU

Curried meatloaf
with veggie sauce or
Native American
vegetable stew;
roasted garlic
mashed potatoes;
Brussels sprouts with
basil; blueberry
pecan bread; orange
pound cake with ice
cream for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
PM storms.
High 77, low 63.

Tomorrow
Scattered T-storms.
High 78, low 61.

Thursday
Partly cloudy
(glory hallelujah!)
High 85, low 66.

Weather Can't Rain on Parade of Campus Talent

The long-awaited and ever-popular Bread Loaf Coffeehouse returns to the Barn tonight at 8:30. For those of you who attended last year's memorable show, the knowledge that this evening will feature the return of Gary Montano's swan song as well as something featuring Jean Hanff Korelitz and Scott Elledge (the nature of which cannot be divulged here) should be enough to persuade you that the urgency of your classwork pales in comparison to the moral imperative of Coffeehouse attendance. Peter Horn is your master of ceremonies (and an act in and of himself) and you'll sip on gourmet coffee and nibble other tasty treats as you are treated to an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

In a related story, FOX has already secured the broadcast rights to the 2004-2007 Coffeehouses; the name will change to *American Idyll* and feature Harold Bloom, Jewel, and that woman who wrote the *Gone With the Wind* sequel as the panel of judges (Bloom, obviously, in Simon's blisteringly critical role). Entrants will be winnowed down over the seven weekly episodes, until the winner (chosen by a process that combines the judges' votes, a BreadNet interactive poll, and the results of a *Fear Factor*-esque contest involving Vermont black flies) receives a guaranteed two-novel contract from Scribner's.

Costume Seekers Saturate VT Economy

The shelves at Neat Repeats, Ben Franklin, and the Dollar Market will be stripped bare of their contents this week as Bread Loafers assemble their bizarre and occasionally disturbing Suppressed Desires costumes. But for those venturing further abroad in search of leopard-skin tights, or superhero paraphernalia, or whatever, a piece of advice from one of the Dames de Cerise: hie thee to the Old Gold vintage clothing shop on 180 Main Street in Burlington. There's an eclectic collection of mostly women's attire from shoes to chapeaux, but also a smattering of bowling shirts and a vast array of bowties for men (men who apparently want to dress up as the Orville Redenbacher kegling squad). You can also drop a note to Box 2408 by Thursday lunch if a size 34B longline strapless in black lace is exactly what you've been looking for to give your getup some giddyup.

Submissions Pour In; Judges Pore Over

The deadline for this summer's Bread Loaf Poetry Contest is this afternoon at 5; give copies of one or two poems (40 lines max) to Judy Jessup in the Inn Seminar Room. Put your name on a separate sheet of paper to retain your valuable anonymity. If you're reading this at lunch and think you shouldn't submit because you only have four hours and haven't written anything yet, take heart! I heard that Edna St. Vincent Millay used to crank out a sonnet during each commercial break of her favorite radio show, *The Shadow Knows*.

Something Burns in Wet Weather

Jean Hanff Korelitz reports that her cousin Lynn Novick, who co-produced *Baseball* and *Jazz* with Ken Burns, will be dropping by campus this Friday to preview what they're working on now, a major documentary about World War II. She'll show a snippet of the project at 7:00 on Friday evening in Barn 1. The showing will only last half an hour, and there will be a brief chance for questions afterward (after which Jean and Lynn have to run down to their daughters' camp and after which you no doubt have to sew the last few feathers, sequins, and pieces of plastic fruit onto your Suppressed Desires costume).

Wet Your Whistle, Too

If you're one of those fortunate enough to find a Director's Reception invitation in your box, bring your damp (but nattily attired) self over to Treman this afternoon for beverages (cool), hors-d'oeuvres (warm), a roaring fire (hot), and Emily Bartels spouting unsubstantiated campus gossip (sizzling). Impolite attendees who monopolize the cashews risk incurring the Director's Glare of Death (very, very cold).

Ticketless Hordes Storm Front Desk

Tickets for *Arcadia* are still available at the Front Desk for next week's five performances (Wednesday-Sunday). They're free but in great demand; while Bread Loafers do get "preferred access" to tickets, eager local residents will snap them up if you don't act fast.

Some Seniors Being Big Drips

Victoria Brown's language was actually a little stronger – unprintable, actually, in this family publication – but the message is clear: If you're a senior and haven't yet told her how many guests you'll have for the Graduation Banquet and how many will stay in campus housing that weekend, you'd better do so soon – those forms are supposed to be in today.

Noise in Academic Vale Prompts Deluge of Complaints

Late at night, most dorms' porches attract only a flurry of moths, which can be mildly annoying but generally prove harmless. The porch of one dormitory in particular (and the dorm I'm talking about knows who it is) has recently tended to attract a much larger, louder, later, and hence potentially much more irritating swarm of socializers. The powers-that-be remind everyone that while chatting on porches is indeed a lovely way to spend an evening, such gatherings should either disperse or adjourn to the relative remoteness of the Barn after 11 PM, lest sleepless neighbors arrive and beat you senseless with copies of *The Riverside Chaucer*. Heed this warning – Kurt's been beginning a lot of sentences with "You know, if I had a taser," and I don't like the gleam in his eye.

BLTN Spirits Undampened

The Bread Loaf Teachers' Network, undaunted by the rainy weather, will hold its usual weekly meeting tomorrow from 7-9 in Barn 1.

Malkovich Makes Splash in Eponymous Film

In an act that must qualify for the Brazenness Hall of Fame, Charlie Kaufman purportedly wrote the script for *Being John Malkovich* without first securing the actor's commitment to the project. (Imagine if they'd failed – we'd have gotten *Being Sean Penn* (too violent) or *Being Robin Williams* (too bizarre) or – perish the thought – *Being Kevin Costner*. No matter – Malkovich liked what he read, signed on, and the rest is cinematic history. Come watch *Malkovich* this Friday at 9 in the Barn, featuring all the SmartFood with which you care to stuff your face.

It's Raining Cats and Dogs, But...

...that's no excuse for bringing them to campus, where they too often prove distracting (barking), worrisome (snapping), or irritating (leaving "calling cards" in the field). Keep 'em home, no matter how cute and sad-eyed they get when they see you heading for the door.

Bibliophiles Flood Bookstore for Bargains

As you read today's issue, the *Crumb* Bum is hightailing it down to the Vermont Book Store on Main Street, where pretty much everything is on sale this week. Drop by for 10-50% savings on their stock of books and CD's.

Foundation Showers Money on Workshoppers

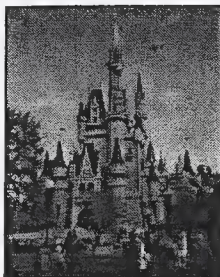
Janet Field-Pickering writes: "Attention NJ and New England (and PA) teachers of Shakespeare: Want a full-day Folger Festivals Workshop at your school? The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation provides the Folger with funding to support all the costs of a 6-hour professional development workshop on teaching Shakespeare for up to 30 teachers at a time. If you live in NJ, they pay for everything, a savings to your district of about \$3500. If you live in New England or PA--the Dodge Foundation will pay for the books and supplies (about \$2000 worth)--your district needs to come up with the \$1000-1500 difference. Either way, it's a great deal." If you are interested, drop Janet a note and she'll be glad to talk about it with you. For a quick preview, check out the testimonials at www.folger.edu/education/festivals.cfm.

Profusion of Hints Clouds Judgment of Some

Jim Maddox, Rebecca Freeman, Shauna Turnbull, and Chris Benson correctly identified Edith Wharton as the answer to yesterday's trivia question, but the usual suspects either didn't chime in or guessed poorly (Emily Dickinson I can understand, but who in their right mind would look at that picture and guess Salman Rushdie?). Unless you possess some serious inside info on the Vermont faculty, you'd probably be better off scouring the headlines for a clue to the identity of today's mystery professor.

Challenging Topic Precipitates Short Answers

One must only assume that the Men of Annex are at this moment congregating in their secret basement lair, weighing which of their dozens of potential submissions for **Top Ten Words or Phrases That Will Never Appear in a Bread Loaf Paper** stand the best chances of being included and consequently keeping the Waitstaff, only one point behind, at bay. And I don't want to seem ungrateful or anything, but why do the waiters keep offering the Men of Annex – and only the Men of Annex – something called "hemlock soup"? They always say how good it tastes, but when I say "Can I have some?" they always avert their eyes and cough and mutter something about "actually, I think we've run out of it by now."



ODDS & ENDS

Of Disney's 42 animated feature films, which is the only one in which both of the protagonist's (or protagonists') birth parents are still alive and present at the end of the film?

SCHEDULE

7:00
Ultimate
(Women Only)
Field

BLTN Meeting
Barn 1

9:00
Gilmore

MENU

Beef stroganoff or mushroom stroganoff with egg noodles; mixed fruit & yam gratin; glazed parsnips; herb bread; chocolate amaretto mousse for dessert.

WEATHER

Today
Thunderstorms.
High 76, low 60.

Tomorrow
Sweet relief!
Partly cloudy,
83/60.

Saturday
Partly cloudy,
82/62.

Once Upon A Crumb...

Volume 84, Number 22

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Goldilocks Finds Cold Pourage

...lost in the dark, scary woods on a Thursday night, Goldilocks suddenly came across a ramshackle little cottage with a fire burning brightly outside and handsome men (at least they looked handsome in the dim torchlight) congregated around what looked to her innocent eyes like some sort of water pump. She sat down by the fire – but her first seat was **toooo** smoky. She backed up a few feet – but the reader's voice was **toooo** far away. She moved to the other side of the circle – and the third seat was just right. After the reading, one of the handsome men approached her and said, "I noticed that you're a fine judge of comfort level – do you think you could tell me if my bed is too soft, too hard, or just right?..."

Disc-lings Turn Swan-derful

...the boys playing Frisbee were lithe and highly skilled but haughty and rude, refusing to pass to the female players. "You don't play as prettily as we do," they seemed to be saying. The women felt like ugly ducklings indeed. But they knew that they, too, could grow into beautiful, swan-like disc-mistresses, if they only got the chance. So they decided to form a splinter Frisbee group for women only, meeting Thursdays at 7. And the men, who had never stopped to consider whether the women would ever amount to anything, stood on the sidelines and gawked in admiration as the women ran, passed, jumped, and caught with impressive skill.

Dixie Would Love Basket of Goodies

...leering, the wolf asked, "And where are you going, Little Red?" She replied, "To visit the grandmotherly Dixie at tonight's BLTN meeting in Barn 1. And if I stay talking to you much longer, I'll be late – it starts at 7!" The wolf suggested that Little Red might get there more quickly if she took a short cut – "just around the far side of the Tea Cabin," he claimed. But Little Red was no stranger to these parts, and knew the legend of the poor little girl Ellen who strayed from the path and wound up the victim of a pine tree's vaguely licentious overtures. She marched past the Wolf and on to the Barn, leaving him perturbed and hatching a plan to lure students working in the Library into his clutches by showing them the way to the nearest bathroom...

Wolf Targets Porch Ops

...but the *Annex* porch was made of wood. Thinking themselves safely soundproofed, the boys sang and laughed late into the night, but the Big Bad Kurt heard them and stormed over. "Annex Men, Annex Men, please turn in!" "Not by the hair on Pederson's chin!" they chanted gleefully. "Then I'll rant, and I'll rave, and I'll turn you all in!!" Kurt shouted. They screamed and ran to the Barn, with Kurt pursuing them all the way. He was just about to launch into the whole routine all over again when he remembered that it was OK to socialize in the Barn after 11, so he just knocked meekly and asked if anyone had a Summer Wheat they could spare.

Poetry Enthusiasts Turn to Stone

...so he told the genie, "I wish...for another award-winning poetry reading!" The genie replied, "Come to the Blue Parlor on Monday at 7:30, and Ruth Stone – who won this year's National Book Award for *In the Next Galaxy* and the 1999 National Book Critics Circle Award for *Ordinary Words* – will read from her work. Now, my master, what is your last wish?" The street urchin thought for a moment, and then said, "Johnson Pond?" The genie sighed and said something about red tape...

A Beauty of a Coffeehouse

...Sleeping Beauty's eighteenth birthday party was the grandest Coffeehouse spectacle the kingdom had ever seen. Mark Valentine sang a ballad about baseball. Shauna Turnbull had everyone laughing at her musical tale of stalking country singers in the supermarket. The Engle/Laird clan clowned around with a hilarious sketch about life in the Bread Loaf asylum. Mark Puckett played "The Snack Bar Blues" on his harmonica. Gary Montano sang "Melancholy Blues." Stephanie Heller and Jim Bishop charmed everyone with their version of a Flying Burrito Brothers tune. Then everyone took mildly hallucinogenic drugs, and the next two acts seemed to involve Caroline Eisner playing the ocarina and Jimmy Carter gyrating, throwing peanuts across the Barn, and lap-dancing the Director. Thankfully, the drugs wore off at that point, and the remaining acts were lovely and normal: Jeni Hankins reading a sestina and singing "No Depression in Heaven," Chris Hutchison singing two original songs and accompanying himself on guitar, Rafe Stepto offering renditions of "We've Got Company" and "Greyhound to the Moon," Paul Epply-Schmidt and Peter Horn seducing the entire audience with a Wienawski violin/piano piece, and Paul solo rounding out the entertainment with a lewd Scottish folksong and two Tom Lehrer tunes. But Emily Bartels arrived late and was unable to perform her signature Britney Spears impersonation; in her anger, she cursed the young princess...

Free Food Entices Children

...it was 9:00 on Friday night, Hansel and Gretel were lost, and they didn't know what to do – when all of a sudden, they came upon a yellow Barn. They smelled something delicious, so they went inside. A strange woman said, "Welcome, children – have some SmartFood! Have *all the SmartFood you want!!* (cackle, cackle)." So the grateful children stuffed their faces. They asked if there was anything to drink, but the witch (for so she was) replied that "the vending machine is having serious issues right now. Sorry." She then attempted to lull them to sleep by turning off the lights and showing *Being John Malkovich*. When the movie ended, she said, "I have something to confess. All along I was planning to cook and eat you-" "Cook us? But how?" Hansel squealed. "Snack Bar deep-fryer," the witch replied offhandedly, "but that movie was so damned confusing that I need to wrap my brain around it before I do anything else." So they fortunately escaped...

This Week, Cinderella Can Stay Until 1:00

...so that Saturday night, Cinderella was swept off to the Suppressed Desires Ball. She thought it odd that she should have to undergo such a thorough security screening to gain admittance, and the waiters who searched her belongings were gruff and unresponsive to her questions. "Still, it was great fun," she later reported, "and I got to dance with a prince!" "Not *the* prince!" her evil stepsisters screeched. "Well, no, not exactly — I mean, he was *dressed* as a prince, but when the dance ended at 1, he took off his mask — and even with beer-goggles, he wasn't exactly Charming. I mean, he lives in *Gilmore*." "Ugh!" the sisters chimed. "I know," Cindy replied. "And he had this *really* weird shoe fetish..."

Troll Gobbles It Up

...the troll under the bridge said, "Who are you?" The Ken Burns documentary replied, "I'm just a little, short sneak preview of the next Ken Burns documentary on World War II — but if you wait a couple of years, the full-length production will certainly be much, much longer." "Oh, goody," the troll replied, for he had loved *The Civil War* and *Baseball* and had many PBS totebags to show for his regular contributions to their fundraisers over the years. But he couldn't wait to see the finished product — on Friday at 7 he went to Barn 1 for the sneak preview and even some brief Q-&A with co-producer Lynn Novick.

Don't Be Bashful or Sleepy — Run the Orr

...Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the *fastest* one of all?" The mirror contemplated the question, and then replied, "I'd say *you* were, O noble Queen, / But future deeds cannot be seen. / To find out who can *really* soar, / You'll have to run the Charlie Orr." "I *knew* it — Snow White's been training for *weeks*!" the queen screeched. "I've got just the thing for her," she muttered, leafing through her recipe box for something evil with which she could secretly coat a PowerBar before Saturday morning's race...

Front Desk Nose About *Arcadia* Tickets

...so you *don't* have *Arcadia* tickets like the *Crumb* said?" the incredulous students asked Ed. "Nope," he responded. "Then why is your nose growing?" they demanded. "OK, OK, I've got them. How many do you want?" he asked gruffly. "Two, please," the polite students replied. "That'll be \$10," Ed snapped, holding out one hand and concealing his increasingly long nose with the other. An adorable little cricket on the counter wagged his finger and said, "Now, Ed, you *know* those tickets are supposed to be *free* — why don't you just give them to these nice—" *SPLAT*. Jiminy Cricket never knew what hit him. Wiping the slime off of his hands, Ed blurted, "Fine, fine, take your free *Arcadia* tickets. I've gotta get over to Cornwall — get some ointment for the swelling, or an emergency rhinoplasty, or something..."

Another Tale All Scrambled Up

...they were crying and crying, and the frog heard them and clambered up on the bank to find out what was the matter. "Can I help?" he asked the golfers. In between sobs, they managed to communicate that they were playing in the Bread Loaf Scramble (because they had signed up on the Dining Hall bulletin board), and that because their ball had rolled into the pond, where they could not reach it, they would now surely make double bogey or worse. "I will retrieve the ball, if you will do me a favor in return," the frog said. "I am really a handsome and wealthy prince who has lived these sixteen years under a curse put upon me by a cruel witch. All I need to release me from her spell is for one of you to kiss me." The golfers considered the offer, but having seen *Warts* earlier in the summer, ultimately decided that the proposition was just too risky...

Poor Unfortunate Soul Seeks Missing Item

...and the Little Mermaid's curiosity about what life on land was like grew and grew. So when she saw the pair of Carhartt brown pants on the Inn shelf outside the lobby bathrooms, she couldn't resist taking them back under the sea with her. But what she didn't know is that those pants belonged to Chris Garber, who really wanted them back. So, children, if *you've* seen that pair of pants, please make Chris happy again and return them to him — or just put them back where they came from...

Rapunzel Tears Hair Out Over Missing Book

...so the witch spent all day ranting and raving, wondering who had had the audacity to steal the copy of *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* from Arthur Little's reserve shelf in Davison. "When I find him or her," the witch muttered to herself, "I'm going to take that book back — and then I'll imprison him or her in a high tower with no doors and a thicket of briars all around it! Then that student can spend the rest of his or her life untangling the complex significance of the symbolic impotence of being imprisoned in a gigantic phallic symbol by a powerful yet de-sexed matriarchal figure!"

The Princess and the B.P.

...and if one tiny pea beneath all those mattresses keeps her awake, then we'll *know* that she's a true princess." But unbeknownst to the wicked Queen, before the young maiden turned in she went to the Writers in the Middst reading at 9 on Sunday in the Blue Parlor, where she heard new fiction by three authors in residence: Scott Elledge, Jean Hanff Korelitz, and Harriet Scott Chessman. She enjoyed the readings so much that she lay awake all night long marveling at the three authors' many accomplishments. Scott Elledge has published many short stories in journals, including *Kestrel*, *Key Satchel*, and *Kinesis* (to name three from his "K" files!). Jean Hanff Korelitz is the author of poetry and fiction, including *The Properties of Breath* (poems), *The Sabbathday River* (a novel), and *Interference Powder* (a novel for children). Harriet Scott Chessman's most recent work of fiction is *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper*. So it was really a stroke of good fortune when her yawns the next morning forced the Queen to concede, however grudgingly....

No, You Don't Get Three Guesses, Either

...but Jon didn't want to have to spin their flax into gold. He didn't have a complicated name like "Rumplestiltskin," and most people knew who he was anyway, so challenging them to guess his name seemed like the height of folly. So he decided to have the fair maidens and masters attempt to answer a random trivia question about a faculty member hating to wait on the Beach Boys. They guessed and guessed — "Dare Clubb!" "Harriet Chessman!" "John Elder!" "Jonathan Freedman!" "Isobel Armstrong!" — but they couldn't come up with the right answer. Toby Kinsler found the hint in the phrase "academic vale," but he too failed to guess that Carol MacVey was the professor in question. Unlike the original story, however, Jon did not require incorrect guessers to marry him, since he is already married to the fair damsel Rebecca — who, years ago, answered a different trivia question incorrectly...

Top Ten Competition Proceeds Gingerly

...the recipe went horribly wrong, and the Waitstaff was left with not one, but dozens of Annex-Men, who immediately jumped out of the oven, scampered out onto the porch (where they talked loudly and knocked things over, waking up the neighbors), and ran down the path, all the while shouting, "Think of as many Top Tens as you can! You can't catch us, we're the Annex Men!" "We'll see about *that*," the Waitstaff replied, and set to work devising the best submissions they could for **Top Ten Words or Phrases That Will Never Appear in a Bread Loaf Paper**, which will appear in tomorrow's *Crumb*...



THE CRUMB

"Some facts should be suppressed, or, at least, a just sense of proportion should be observed in treating them." – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Volume 84, Number 23

Friday, July 25, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Which Acting Ensemble member has played a character who engages in "carnal embrace" with a life-size puppet?

SCHEDULE

Today

K. Burns Preview
6:45, Barn 1

Being J. Malkovich
9:00, Barn

Saturday

Charlie Orr Run
9:00 (Walk),
9:30 (Run),
Johnson Pond

Suppressed Desires
9:00, Barn

Sunday

Kickball
2:30, Field

Ultimate
4:00, Field

Shakespeare Wkshp.
3-5, Barn 1

Madrigalists
4:30, Barn

Blue Parlor, 7:30

Fiction Festival
9:00, Blue Parlor

MENU

Spare ribs or tofu kebabs; baked potatoes; corn on the cob; focaccia; maple oatmeal pie for dessert.

WEATHER

Today

Partly cloudy.
High 84, low 60.

Tomorrow

Mostly cloudy.
High 84, low 66.

Sunday

Scattered T-storms.
High 78, low 61.

Breaking News: Disco/Funk/Hip-Hop Threat Level Raised to "Imminent"

Levels of "chatter" regarding Suppressed Desires have risen in recent days to alarming levels. Therefore, in accordance with the Bread Loaf Patriot Act, please bear in mind the following expectations for conduct in the hours leading up to, and during, tomorrow's dance. Report as suspicious anyone not in costume or pursuing academic work after 7:30 PM. Do not seal mouth with duct tape, as doing so impinges on your government-protected right to certain beverages. If unfamiliar music blares from sound system, do not panic – simply "free your mind and let it fall out your behind," as Senator P-Funk (I-CA) rationally advises. Party starts at 9.

Set This Reading In Stone

Mark your calendars now, because next Monday's guest reader is one you won't want to miss. Ruth Stone, winner of the 2002 National Book Award for *In the Next Galaxy* and the 1999 National Book Critics Circle Award for *Ordinary Words*, will be reading from her work at 7:30 in the Blue Parlor. Galway Kinnell has written that "Ruth Stone's poems startle us over and over with their shapeliness, their humor, their youthfulness, their wild aptness, their strangeness, their sudden familiarity, the authority of their insights, the moral gulps they prompt, their fierce exactness of language and memory. Her poems are experiences, not the record of experiences. They are events, interactions between the poet and the world. They happen - there on the page before us and within us - surprising and inevitable." Like Kinnell, she's a Vermont resident, further bolstering the so-called Frost Theory that states that Green Mountain air produces prizewinning poets in numbers out of all proportion to the state's modest population.

Blue Parlor's Amazing Offerings

Sunday brings a twist on the usual Blue Parlor readings. It's a full-blown doubleheader, as five student writers showcase their skills with verse and prose before turning the Parlor over to three of the campus' finest professional stylists. First, Clare Mackenzie, Liam Day, Julie Lausé, Ileana Jimenez, and Rebecca Freeman will wow the audience with their original work. They'll begin at 7:30; the whole thing will last about an hour, after which they'll turn the podium over to...

...But Wait! There's More!

...the professional trio of Scott Elledge, Jean Hanff Korelitz, and Harriet Chessman, who will each read from their work starting at 9 on Sunday in the Blue Parlor. Scott has published short stories in many journals; Jean is the author of poetry and fiction, including *The Sabbathday River*; Harriet's most recent work of fiction is *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper*.

Middlebury Magazine Comps

Copies, Crowns Campus Champ

Jim Maddox is happy to announce that the editors of *Middlebury Magazine* have made 100 copies of their latest issue available free of charge; grab yours in the Inn lobby. He's even happier to announce that the issue includes the story that won the magazine's first Fiction Contest – written by Bread Loaf's own Laura Legere!

An Ode of Orr Race

Sleepers-in should set their alarm clocks to get up in time for the 19th Annual Charlie Orr Run tomorrow morning. New this year is the Walkers' Division, which starts at 9:00; the runners' starting gun is half an hour later. You don't need to have signed up to run, jog, walk, skip, or otherwise traverse the course; just haul yourself down to Johnson Ex-Pond, which serves as both starting point and finish line but remains sadly unfit to reprise its former role as post-race swimmin' hole.

Burns Calls New Film "Eexcellent"

Everyone is invited to a sneak preview of Ken Burns' work-in-progress, a documentary on WWII, this evening from 6:45 to 7:15 in Barn 1. Co-producer Lynn Novick will be on hand to field questions afterwards.

Distressed Desire Books' Return

More than one book has gone missing from Davison's reserve shelves – particularly egregious breaches of the code of civility by which most of us choose to abide. It was bad enough when *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* disappeared from Arthur Little's shelf, but now *Solitude and the Sublime* has vanished as well, and the Romantic Poetry students are desperate for its return. Please remember that reserve books circulate for two hours only, and malefactors should bear in mind that they are inconveniencing their classmates mightily. Further violations may necessitate Jim Maddox to place Davison security under the aegis of the more punitively-inclined Vermont State Liquor Board.

Secretly Replace Your School's Bland Workshops With Folger's!

Janet Field-Pickering alerts NJ, New England, and PA teachers of Shakespeare: Want a full-day Folger Festivals Workshop at your school? The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation provides the Folger with funding to support all the costs of a 6-hour professional development workshop on teaching Shakespeare for up to 30 teachers at a time. If you live in NJ, they pay for everything, a savings to your district of about \$3500. If you live in New England or PA—the Dodge Foundation will pay for the books and supplies (about \$2000 worth)—your district needs to come up with the \$1000-1500 difference. Either way, it's a great deal – if you are interested, drop a note to Janet and she'll be glad to talk about it with you. You can also visit www.folger.edu/education/festivals.cfm for testimonials.

Time for Recess (I Call the Swings)

For years, it has been a source of great shame to the school that its athletic offerings are limited to Ultimate, tennis, volleyball, basketball, softball, golf (disc and regular), running, biking, hiking, croquet, and badminton. On behalf of the senior class and the waitstaff, Brendan Sullivan is doing something about this obvious shortfall – organizing a kickball game for 2:30 on Sunday. For procrastination and/or escape, nothing beats reliving your third grade glory days, when the only things stressing you out were how well you did on your diorama of *Little House in the Big Woods*, why your mom packed a V-8 in your lunch when she *knew* you wanted a Capri Sun, and whether Joey Carbury did, in fact, have cooties.

Malkovich No Cheap Thrill

- 15 minutes in John Malkovich's head: \$200
- Movie ticket and popcorn (in the real world): \$14
- Movie ticket and popcorn (at Bread Loaf) \$0
- Procrastinating by going to *Being John Malkovich* tonight: priceless
- Caffeine-filled Frappuccino from Barn vending machine to facilitate all-nighter necessitated by procrastination: \$2
- Desperate second attempt to procure Frappuccino after evil vending machine inhales money, dispenses no product: \$2
- Bribe for professor's forgiveness after you fall asleep with forehead on computer keyboard, type only "a;sldfj;ljsdfldjflaj," and miss paper deadline: \$250 (average)
- Gas for trip to withdraw bribe money from ATM: \$1.15
- Ripton speeding ticket for rushing back with bribe to professor: \$78
- Bail for attempted bribery of state trooper: \$500
- One permitted phone call – to Jim Maddox: \$.35
- A Vermont experience like no other student's: priceless

Yes, But Can They Find Their Way Back?

Does it seem quieter around here? Possibly because Ed and Kalli set out yesterday on an epic cycling tour, itself worthy of a Ken Burns documentary, to Montreal. The updates so far:

- Thursday, 5:00 AM. Ed and Kalli head out into the wilderness. They are amply supplied with three days' worth of supplies from the Bookstore – Cheez-Its, Orange Milanos, and Altoids. Anticipated tearful family goodbye scrapped because, in Victoria's words, "like I'm the sort of person who gets up at ridiculous hours."
- 1 PM. They report in from Noyen, Quebec, undeterred by having ridden 35 miles through torrential downpours.
- 2:47. Small pothole. Ed unhurt, bicycle unaffected. Integrity of Cheez-It package, however, severely compromised; crackers scatter to the four winds. Unanticipated nutritional setback.
- 7:30. Ed and Kalli attend Expos-Mets game, help crowd outnumber players (only the 8th time that's happened in Montreal this year!).
- 9:06. Unconfirmed GPS tracking data report that phone call ostensibly from "Expos game" actually emanated from Waybury pub. Investigation into trek's veracity initiated.
- 11 PM. Bedtime at the elegant Downtown Travelodge. Trip budget endangered when a ravenous Kalli discovers the room's mini-bar (Kahlua miniature: \$6.25. Salted pistachios: \$5. Kit Kat: \$3.25.) Somewhat miraculously, this only adds up to \$1.79 American.
- This morning: Ed and Kalli stay in hotel room, watch Tour de France on TV. Ed, watching peloton negotiate hairpin mountain turns at 55 mph, repeatedly blurts out "*We* need to ride more like *that*." Kalli, ever the voice of reason, counsels temperance.
- Scheduled for today: various wanderings around Montreal.
- This evening: trip to see Expos/Braves game. Two consecutive nights' attendance at Le Stade Olympique sets record for fan loyalty, qualifies Ed and Kalli for membership in Expos' Hall of Fandom or Canadian knighthood (their choice).
- Sometime tomorrow evening: Sir Ed and Sir Kalli return to Bread Loaf, whereupon they will, no doubt, head straight to Suppressed Desires (albeit costumed as someone exhausted and/or sedentary).

Question Turns Out to Be Multiple Choice

Turns out that there are *several* Disney films in which the protagonist's birth parents survive the entire story. Brenda Lilly and Kristine Palmero knew that *Mulan* fits the bill, Jean Hanff Korelitz and several others rightly claimed *Sleeping Beauty*, but Joy MacVey and Beth Ellsesser take the cake for identifying **four** correct answers: *Mulan*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *101 Dalmatians*, and *Peter Pan*.

Madrigalists

A reminder to the Bread Loaf Madrigalists (and to anyone still interested in contributing to their distinctive vocal stylings) that we will rehearse on Sunday at 4:30. After all, we need to polish the Fight Song – if we sing it really, really well, Jim Maddox says that he will pursue the logical next step and secure us an arch-rival.

Unfair Advantage

Yeah, the Annex Men widen their lead a bit here, but the *Crumb* Bum forgot to take into account that they didn't need to look further than their actual papers to find disastrous excerpts they could contribute to

Top (Eight)Te(e)n Words or Phrases That Will Never Appear in a Bread Loaf Paper

18. "Irregardless, the ironical point is..." (FD)
17. "Bisquick." (PAJ)
16. "Pimp slap." (WS)
15. "Woolf's point here is really quite simple..." (MOA)
14. "As any retard can see..." (WS)
13. "I didn't get this poem at all. I mean, where are the rhymes?" (JHK)
12. "At the end of this paper, there is a little something just for you, if you know what I mean..." (MOA)
11. "My spell checker won't recognize 'epistemological hegemony' so I'll just talk about Episcopalian hedgehogs." (MOA)
10. "It may be useful to consider the poetry of 'NSYNC within the context of all group-utterances, from the Greek choruses to the present day." (JHK)
9. "According to *Webster's Second Edition Picture Dictionary*..." (WS)
8. "Shakespeare. Why does that sound so familiar to me?" (FS)
7. "Who's your daddy?" (PAJ)
6. "Me like book. Book taste good." (MOA)
5. "Even Frost's most devoted fans have to admit that he wrote far too many poems about trees and far too few about monkeys." (WS)
4. "Danielle Steel's use of the phrase 'heaving bosom'..." (PAJ)
3. "While studying on the Annex porch..." (MOA)
2. "As I heard last night at Gilmore..." (WS)
1. "Notes, Cliff. *Ulysses*. New York: K-Tel, 1991." (MOA)

The Standings: Men of Annex (MOA) 28; Waitstaff (WS) 26; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 10; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Fyler Sisters (FS) 7; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 6; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 6; Front Desk (FD) 5; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 5; Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) 4; Another Off-Campus Contingent (AOCC) 2; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2; Anonymous (A) 1.

And because the *Crumb* Bum knows that no one's really busy or anything next week (and because he wants to see how the Men of Annex and the Waitstaff respond to having the pressure turned up a bit), he's decided to double up the Top Ten lists next week. First, imagine reality TV infiltrating this community and devise the **Top Ten Contestant Challenges on Fear Factor Bread Loaf**. That list will appear in Wednesday's *Crumb*, with a second Top Ten list (topic TBA) to follow in Friday's issue.



THE CRUMB

"With thee I do forget the toil and stress,
Time's straitened pulse, the soul's dread
weariness..." -Oscar Wilde

Volume 84, Number 24

Monday, July 28, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Whose poetry
prompted
Swinburne to
declare that
"under the dirty
clumsy paws of a
harper whose
plectrum is a
muckrake, any
tune will become
a chorus of
discords"?

SCHEDULE

5:00
Madrigalists
Barn

5:00
New Mexico Meeting
Barn 1

6:45
Story Time
Blue Parlor

7:30
Ruth Stone Reading
Barn
(note location change)

MENU

Flank steak or
vegetarian quiche;
peas and pearl
onions; brown rice
with spinach,
cheese, and herbs;
honey oat bread;
carrot cake for
dessert.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy until
further notice.

Today: 76/54.

Tomorrow: 79/55.

Wednesday: 83/58.

Thursday: 84/59.

Extraordinary Guest Ruth Stone Offers More Than Ordinary Words

Bread Loaf is delighted and honored to welcome celebrated poet Ruth Stone this evening, when she will read from her work at 7:30 in the Barn (not in the Blue Parlor, as was previously announced in these pages). Ms. Stone comes to Bread Loaf at a time when her work is receiving lavish, bountiful, and long-deserved critical veneration: for her most recent book, *In the Next Galaxy*, Ms. Stone won this year's National Book Award and the Academy of American Poets' Wallace Stevens Prize. In 1999, her volume *Ordinary Words* won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Ms. Stone joins the ranks of distinguished Vermont writers who have graced Bread Loaf with their presence over the years – Robert Frost, Julia Alvarez, Galway Kinnell – and we hope that you will join the ranks of those who will surely pack the Barn this evening for what promises to be a memorable evening of poems that, in the words of one admirer, are both "surprising and inevitable."

Head Northeast To Go Southwest

Slightly northeast of the Inn is Barn 1; more than slightly southwest of Vermont is New Mexico. All students interested in attending the New Mexico campus (that's the one in the U.S., not to be confused with the "new Mexico campus") are encouraged to attend a brief informational meeting with Jim Maddox from 5-6 in Barn 1 this afternoon. To help the meeting move briskly, the *Crumb* here prints answers to some of the more frequently asked questions about New Mexico. Yes, the guacamole is made right at your table. No, the scorpions aren't *that* much of a problem. No, attending the New Mexico campus is unlikely to improve your chances of spotting a moose. No, New Mexico veterans' constant tales of the nightly outings to Santa Fe in search of the perfect margarita do not indicate that Middlebury has compromised its academic mission in New Mexico in favor of a summer-long, MTV-worthy desert fiesta.

InnKeeper Joins With TicketMaster

The Front Desk advises as-yet-ticketless students that Thursday and Friday's performances of *Arcadia* are already sold out, and seats for the other three dates are moving quickly. Children of the 1980's are reminded that this *Arcadia* is a Tom Stoppard play and should not be mistaken for an unexpected and unsought reunion concert of the band Arcadia, the Duran Duran offshoot that brought us the forgettable 1985 ditty "Election Day."

Fortunately, the Madrigalists' summer concerts, which will begin at 7:30 on the East Lawn before each performance, don't require tickets at all, so you can stroll by to hear the dulcet strains of the Bread Loaf Fight Song as many times as you can stand it.

C U 4 BLTN 2-M-R-O?

Tomorrow's social calendar is rapidly filling up with events you won't want to miss. BLTN members are advised to add one more obligation – a meeting in Barn 1 from 7-9 – to that schedule.

Readings Show Tremendous Class

Two tremendous classes, actually. Tomorrow night brings a pair of opportunities to hear firsthand what your friends have been assiduously crafting in their writing courses this summer. First, come to a reading of engaging and beautifully crafted creative nonfiction pieces by the students in Harriet Chessman's Writing about Place course at 6:45 in the Blue Parlor. As Harriet says, "How else can you visit foreign countries, kitchens, porches, county fairs, and a myriad of other places, all in the space of an hour?" Then, head over to Barn 2, where David Huddle's poetry writing students will dazzle you with samples of their summer's work at 8:00.

Finish Up Strong

Tomorrow evening at 9 in the Blue Parlor is also the last group discussion of issues of sexual orientation. Jonathan Strong plans to continue this group next summer and wants your input on how to make it most useful; for instance, he'd like to bring a speaker from GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teacher Network) to campus next year. And he hopes that everyone, during the school year, will check out the SAGA Conference on BreadNet, where substantive and productive discussion will continue, albeit without surroundings quite as scenic as the ones that Vermont so kindly provides.

Volume 6: The Circus of Croutons?

J.K. Rowling fans looking for a sneak peek at what the next installment in the Harry Potter series will bring will no doubt want to schedule a visit to the Ripton Elementary School tomorrow afternoon at 3:30, when the Croutons crew will present their summer production, *Harry Potter Visits the Circus*. Inside sources say that Savannah Brown has become quite a skilled Quidditch player and that Ben Freedman is getting remarkably good at Transfiguring pinecones into garden slugs.

Kiddie Litter-ature

Phoebe Lewis will be telling stories to the children (and, one assumes, to anyone young at heart) after dinner tonight, Wednesday, and Friday in the Blue Parlor. This presentation is part of Bread Loaf's extensive developmental network of minor-league teams, designed to hone the skills of future generations of Barn readers, Gilmore storytellers, and Drew Lecturers.

Fun Run Done: Who Won?

Tim Lear ran away with the overall title in the 19th Annual Charlie Orr Memorial Fun Run with a blistering 17:57 time, and Ana Silva won the women's division in 24:52. Thanks and congratulations to the 39 runners and 25 (at least) walkers who came out on Saturday morning to help continue this Bread Loaf tradition. A complete list of finishing times is posted outside the Dining Hall, with curiously blank spaces next to 23rd, 33rd, and 39th places. If you know who belongs in these spots, please fill in the correct names. If you'd like your name to appear in any of those slots even though you didn't *actually* run the race, contact the Front Desk staff, who will negotiate prices for "naming rights" to said positions.

Dance Proved Endlessly Rocking

The following statements have been vetted by the Administration: Thanks to the efforts of the Waitstaff security patrol, Saturday's Suppressed Desires party was a tremendous success. Enemies of our campus' freedom tried to generate sadness and fear by freezing one of the kegs, but the preventative measures taken by Kurt and Maggie turned what could have been a catastrophic loss of beverages into only a minor and temporary inconvenience. The keg in question has been taken into custody for interrogation; future campus kegs should not fear that they will be subject to suspicion and intolerance based simply on their outward appearance.

Andy Pederson's miniature Annex porch was a huge hit – or at least it was until 11 PM, when a miniature Kurt and Maggie appeared out of nowhere to shut it down. No doubt wilting under the accumulating stress of campus life, Chris Hutchison and Phoebe Lewis each wished for young Oliver's carefree existence. And while some may have disputed the tastefulness of the "G-string" costume, it's precisely that freedom of expression that makes our country great.

The Desire Threat Level has returned to meadow-green (low), but officials caution against complacency. You may think that single-minded dedication to lengthy and time-consuming essays will effectively shield you against the entreaties of Desire, and no doubt such efforts will help. But be aware that opportunities for Desire to strike again can, and will, appear throughout the remainder of the session (upon making eye contact across the bonfire during an especially salacious Gilmore reading, upon the object of your affection inviting you to share the one remaining functional dryer in the laundry room). Go about your business, but remain vigilant.

Five Rose To Thorney Challenge

Joy MacVey, Beth Ellsesser, Laurie Eustis, Sara Blair, and Kurt Broderson correctly guessed that Stephen Thorne is the Acting Ensemble member who engaged in "carnal embrace" with a life-size puppet in the course of a recent role. Check the headlines for a clue to the identity of today's author, and get your guess to the *Crumb* by tomorrow morning to see your name in print in the next issue.

Can't Predict Survivor of Amazing Race

Given the ascendancy of reality TV and the recent upsurge in campus stress, it seemed only fitting for the *Crumb* to ratchet up the pressure of the Top Ten competition with **Top Ten Challenges on Fear Factor Bread Loaf**. The Men of Annex are locked in a tightly contested battle for campus supremacy with the Waitstaff; they and all other competitors will have to work double-time to come up with witty and printable submissions by **Wednesday** at 11 AM for inclusion in that day's *Crumb*.

Dubious Intent in Bartels' Oxford Trip

Recently intercepted e-mail from Jim Maddox's BreadNet account revealed the following disturbing communiqué to Middlebury President John McCardell. It apparently originated as an administrative response to Emily Bartels' ill-disguised lunge for complete authority and large statuary during Jim's recent absence:

To: John McCardell (theprez@middlebury.edu)
From: Jim Maddox (manager@jimmosmotel.com)
Re: Bartels too big for britches?

Dear J:

I have in quick determination
Thus set it down: she shall with speed to England,
For the demand of our neglected campus.
Haply the skies and countries different
With variable objects shall expel
This lust for power settled in her heart,
Whereon her brains still beating puts her thus
Consistent with herself. What think you on't?

And, England, if my love thou hold'st at aught--
As my great power thereof may give thee sense,
(for I can close Deep Hall, or offer but
One course, and that on A. Lloyd Webber's plays,
Or make the food e'en worse – nosebags for all!-))
That thou mayst not too coldly sit against
Our sovereign process; which imports at full,
By letters congruing to that effect,
That thou take Bartels down a notch or two.
Do it, England, for like the hectic in my blood she rages,
And thou must cure me: till I know 'tis done,
Of cashews I will sup upon not one.

More information on this worrisome breaking news in future issues of the *Crumb*.

The Crumb

*"Perjur'd, full of blame, savage,
Extreme, rude, cruel, not to trust,
Enjoy'd no sooner but despised straight..."*
-William Shakespeare

Volume 84, Number 25
Tuesday, July 29, 2003

Odds & Ends

*One of the stars of one of the films named in today's headlines visited
Bread Loaf Oxford's Page to Stage class in the early 1990's while
performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Who?*

Schedule

Croutons Play
3:30, Ripton Elem.

Barbara Nielsen
5:00, Barn 1

Writing About Place
6:45, Blue Parlor

Volleyball
7:00, Field

BLTN
7:00-9:00, Barn 1

Poetry Class Reads
8:00, Barn 2

Sexuality Disc. Grp.
9:00, Blue Parlor

Menu

Beef stew; Chef Mo's couscous; cabbage & fennel sauté; broccoli and cauliflower; raisin bread; apple pie for dessert.

Weather

Partly sunny
(glass half-full)
or partly cloudy (glass half empty)
for the rest of the week.

Today: 79/57.

Tomorrow: 83/58.

Thursday: 82/60.

The Great Escape

If you long to visit foreign countries, kitchens, porches, county fairs, and a myriad of other places without straying too far from that paper-in-progress or spending more than an hour, you're in luck. Harriet Chessman invites you to come to a reading of engaging and beautifully crafted creative nonfiction pieces by her Writing about Place₁ students tonight at 6:45 in the Blue Parlor.

₁Not to be confused with "Writing About Plaice," a sadly underenrolled course that teaches strategies for describing flounder-like flatfish.

Heral-ded Poets Society

David Huddle's Poetry Writing students will follow with a reading of their own in Barn 2 starting at 8 tonight. Come hear these promising practitioners of verse; their reading should also last about an hour.

The Trouble With Harry

Well, one assumes there'll be trouble of some sort when *Harry Potter Visits the Circus* this afternoon at 3:30 at Ripton Elementary School. This year's Croutons production is open to everyone; Alan MacVey₁ is reportedly wringing his hands and suffering understandable anxiety that the production values, set design, and acting genius of the Croutons' production will upstage *Arcadia* completely₂, rendering it a mere afterthought in the minds of smitten viewers of this afternoon's extravaganza.

₁Who auditioned for the role of Hagrid, but was ultimately bypassed in favor of Asher Muldoon.

²If this happens, look for next summer's major Acting Ensemble production to be *Pippi Longstocking*.

The Golden Child

Barbara Nielsen, who served as Commissioner of Education for South Carolina for 8 years, will talk about the No Child Left Behind Act in Barn 1 at 5 pm today. All are welcome to attend.

Something To Talk About

Jonathan Strong reminds everyone interested in continuing (or joining) this summer's productive discussions of issues of sexual orientation (both at Bread Loaf and beyond) that the group will meet for the last time tonight at 9 in the Blue Parlor. Come share your ideas for how we can continue to spread the word next summer. Everyone is also invited to drop by the SAGA conference on BreadNet to solicit or provide advice on making your classrooms healthy and open environments.

Field Of Dreams

The more violently inclined might want to take out the accumulated stresses of these last weeks of study on the volleyball court, where you can engage in therapeutic projection as you imagine that the ball is a noisy neighbor ("Who's laughing *now*, @*@#*\$*?!?!?"), the computer that froze on you ("\$%*#@ Windows XP!!!"), or your professor's head ("Epistemology, my *\$*!! Try *my fist*-omology, you %&*#\$%!!!!").₁

₁Do not say this out loud if the professor in question is David Huddle and he is standing on the other side of the net.

Double Bill: The Sound of Music / The Greatest Show On Earth

By now, of course, you have in hand tickets for one or more of the five productions of *Arcadia*, which opens tomorrow evening at 8 in the Little Theatre. And of course, you'll get to the West Lawn early (at 7:30) to hear the Bread Loaf Madrigalists present their summer selections, which somehow range from Lennon & McCartney to Lacan & Derrida₁, from the joys of shepherding to the joys of caffeine.

₁Who, unbeknownst to most, co-wrote "Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round The Old Oak Tree."

Bend It Like Beckham

...at Bread Loaf's daily yoga session. This week's signup sheet is posted outside the Dining Hall, and the group needs volunteers to lead each hourlong meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend – it might be exactly what you need to get your mind off of structures of gendered aesthetic confinement₁ in *The House of Mirth*.

₁Is there such a thing as “gendered aesthetic confinement”? I just made it up. Work it into discussion tomorrow, see if your professor buys it. Or, better yet: Professors, work it in and see if your students notice.

The Dresser

The first shipment of Bread Loaf T-shirts bearing Marge Droge's design simply flew out of Maggie's hands – so she's now taking orders for a special second printing, to be delivered to campus next week. If you realize that you do, in fact, want a T-shirt because you've seen firsthand how good they look, Maggie will be at lunch today and will hang around the Inn until 2:00 to take requests for this special order.₁

₁Which we're calling the “Lemming Run,” because we know you only want one so you can look like all the cool people who already have theirs.

Return To Me

Re-enrollment forms and transcript requests are available outside the Bread Loaf Office. All students planning to attend one of the Bread Loaf campuses in 2004 should pick up, fill out, and return a re-enrollment form.₁ **Only** fill out a transcript form if you need an official copy sent to another university or other institution; you'll automatically receive a grade report in the mail sometime this fall.

₁It used to be called a “reapplication form,” a term that always generated a momentary frisson of terror at the realization that technically, there existed the chance that you might not be automatically invited back. The *Crumb* Bum remembers feeling this apprehension after the summer of 1995, when his professors noted his “struggle to comprehend that *Othello* was not just a board game” and his “tendency to eschew critical essays in favor of macaroni sculptures.”

Simply Irresistible

The Bookstore looks to clear out its inventory next week, when they'll put everything except phone cards and graduation regalia on sale for 20% off.

It's a great opportunity for picking up a few souvenirs for yourself or stocking stuffers for friends and relatives. Because let's face it: nothing says "I love you"¹ more than *The Complete Shorter Plays of Samuel Beckett*.

¹Or "You're just too damn cheery; this will bring you down for sure."

Close Encounters Of The Cool Kind

from planetary.org/marswatch2003/events.html

"Never again in your lifetime will the Red Planet be so spectacular. This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars, an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs¹ its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years but it may be as long as 60,000 years. The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles² and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 (the sun is -27) and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August, Mars will rise in the east at 10 p.m. and reach its azimuth³ at about 3 a.m. But by the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30 a.m. That's pretty convenient when it comes to seeing something that no human has seen in recorded history⁴. So mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month. Share with your children and grandchildren. No one alive today will ever see this again.

For more information on our nearest neighbors see:

<http://www.inconstantmoon.com> or <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/>."

¹And let me tell you, Mars is *wicked pissed* that Jupiter keeps horning in on its territory. Just because it's a gas giant doesn't mean it can bully other, smaller planets, nudging them out of orbit, stealing and hiding their moons...

²Also the distance between Bread Loaf and the nearest functional laundromat.

³Is this even a word? I bet some astronomers hopped up on Mountain Dew during an all-night Hubble Telescope session just made it up, and they have a bet riding on whether anyone questions their authority.

⁴Like Macauley Culkin's appeal, or Emily Dickinson's lighter side.

Quiz Show

Hard at work on final papers, still rapt in admiration for Ruth Stone's poetry, or suffering from writer's cramp so severe it prevented even the briefest of missives to the *Crumb*, no one at all identified Walt Whitman as the poet Swinburne held in such low regard. If no one bothers to attempt a guess at today's mystery film star, then the *Crumb* Bum will resort to pathetically easy questions in a transparent effort to elicit responses, questions such as "How many fingers do you have?" or "What is your home planet?"¹ or "What is the name of the main character of *Hamlet*?"

¹Ed Brown, don't answer.

The Sum Of All Fears

The Men of Annex and the Waitstaff are duking it out for campus bragging rights in this summer's Top Ten competition, but beneath them in the standings there's a vicious scrum¹ developing among the smaller-scale entrants. Jean Hanff Korelitz, the Fyler Sisters, and the Front Desk are all scrapping for third place and have all submitted entries already. Everyone else needs to get their **Top Ten Challenges on Fear Factor Bread Loaf**² to the *Crumb* Bum by 11:00 AM tomorrow.

¹As opposed to the polite, decorous, English-tea-party sort of scrum.

²To air on Wednesdays at 9:30, between *Survivor: Gilmore* and *American Idol VIII: The Search For America's Next Star Ventriloquist*.

I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!

After reading yesterday's *Crumb*, which contained the breaking news that Emily Bartels may have been sent to England by Jim Maddox for reasons more nefarious than originally suspected, Emily herself has made contact with the *Crumb*. She writes:

'When thou shalt have overlooked this, give these letters to the Director. Ere I was two days old at sea, a pirate of very warlike appointment gave us chase. Finding ourselves too slow of sail, I put on a compelled valour (compelled valour being the only kind I possess), and in the grapple I boarded them: on the instant they got clear of our ship; so I alone became their prisoner. They initially dealt with me like thieves of mercy, but it turns out that they like *Extreme Makeovers* too, so we struck it off eventually; I

am to do a good turn for them and write them letters of recommendation to an M.F.A. program. Anyway, let Maddox have the letters I have sent; and repair thou to me with as much speed as thou wouldst fly to the bar at last call at a Director's Reception. I can tell you things about Co-ed Naked Faculty Volleyball that will make thee dumb; yet are they much too light for the bore of the matter. I'm a-comin' back to get my revenge on that fool Director who thought he could get rid of me with jet lag and English food. Trust no one. Farewell. 'He that thou knowest thine, BARTELS.'

Needless to say, this does not bode well for her eventual return to Vermont. Hide all the secretly poisoned swords, rapiers, foils, épées, halberds, and cutlasses, and for God's sake, keep Jim away from anyone named Laertes.



THE CRUMB

*"The ceaseless dull overbearing monotony of it!
It will drive me distracted. I may have to
return to town to escape it." -Lady Croom*

Volume 84, Number 26

Wednesday, July 30, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

*Which famous
living writer
moved from
Czechoslovakia to
Singapore to India
to England - all by
the time he turned
nine?*

SCHEDULE

Director's Reception
5:00, Treman

**Madrigalists
Rehearsal**
6:45, Barn

Ultimate
7:00, Field

**Madrigalists
Performance**
7:30, West Lawn

**Arcadia
Opening Night!!**
8:00, Theatre

MENU

Marinated steak or
vegetarian
lasagna; sweet
potato fries; green
beans; ice cream
for dessert.

WEATHER

Today:
Partly cloudy.
High 82, low 58.

Tomorrow:
Partly cloudy.
High 84, low 60.

Friday:
Cloudy.
High 79, low 64.

Ar•ca•di•a n

1 A region whose inhabitants, relatively isolated from the rest of the known civilized world, proverbially lived a simple, pastoral life. 2 The dramatic production of the same name, set to open tonight in that very same idyllic location. The play begins at 8:00 in the Little Theatre. All shows are sold out, but Faye encourages anyone wanting to attend to show up anyway; they'll give away no-shows' seats shortly before 8.

tip n

1 A gratuity left in appreciation for outstanding service, such as that provided by the waiters and housekeeping staff all summer long (*Give your tips to the Front Desk before you leave.*) 2 A piece of advice (*Today's etiquette tip is to be as generous as you possibly can when contributing to those two invaluable groups.*)

tip•toe v

1 To walk quietly (*The students tiptoed past the Theatre while performances were in progress out of consideration for the actors and audiences.*)

Arm•strong p.n.

1 Performer of inconceivable stamina, worldwide fame, good cheer, and profound intelligence, who will be reading a chapter from his new book tomorrow at 5 in the Blue Parlor. Everyone is cordially invited. 2 Some guy who can, like, *ride a bike*. Whoop-de-doo.

lap•top n

1 Portable computer, on which Caroline Eisner will happily install BreadNet if you drop it off with her any weekday morning. Or you can simply pick up the latest instructions for downloading BreadNet on your own. Instructions are located on the assistant's desk in the Apple Cellar. 2 Part of Jim Maddox targeted by Pucci-clad, Jimmy-Carter-masked stranger during last week's Coffeehouse.

Mad•ri•gal•ists pl.n.

1 A group of singers who, having invested considerable time and effort into twice-weekly rehearsals all summer, will perform this evening (and before each subsequent performance of *Arcadia*) at 7:30 on the West Lawn. Their selections span five centuries of music, from madrigals (natch) to jazz, Broadway, pop, TV show themes, and (of course) graduate school Fight Songs. The Madrigalists are reminded to meet in the Barn at 6:45 to warm up.

ton•ic n

1 Something that increases or restores physical or mental tone (*Today's Director's Reception is just the tonic for a crowded and difficult week.*) 2 A carbonated flavored beverage, available mixed with various spirits or fruit wedges at said reception.

ul•ti•mate n/adj

1 A game involving Frisbees and demanding hand-eye coordination, stamina, and a willingness to incur grass stains on nearly every article of clothing, to take place this evening at 7 on the field. 2 Last, final, superlative (assumed) (*Next to attending Arcadia, Ultimate is tonight's ultimate escape.*)

pa•per•work n

1 Effortless and convenient completion of re-enrollment and transcript request forms located outside Elaine's office. Only complete a transcript request form if you know you need an official transcript sent somewhere in addition to your grade report, which will automatically be mailed to you this fall. 2 Academic obligations that must somehow be shoehorned into this week's lineup of irresistible performances and similar events.

slip n

1 A small piece of paper, like the one at the bottom of this page, which you should return to the Front Desk so they can estimate meal attendance and room availability for Commencement weekend.

*Return this
slip to the
Front Desk
as soon as
possible!*

Departure Slip

Your name: _____

Your dorm & room number: _____

Your date of departure: _____

lese ma.jes.ty *n*

1 A offense against the ruler of a state, as yesterday's Oxford antics would seem to be in monarchical England: At last night's High Table celebration Emily Bartels was presented with a crown and scepter (obtained at Warwick Castle Kingmaker exhibit gift shop). Crown and scepter were presented on velvet pillows to the a capella strains of "For she's a jolly good fellow." The British tutors at High Table looked bewildered at first, but then had to be restrained from kneeling and swearing allegiance to Queen Emily. Jay Crawford-Kelly and the Madrigalists regaled us with the famous "Mosquito Song" at the reception. 2 An affront to dignity in general, as this entire event would surely seem to be.

in.cre.du.li.ty

1 Complete disbelief. "Mosquito Song"?

clue.less *n/adj*

1 Out of touch; hopelessly uninformed or unperceptive (*Only a clueless or deliberately rude student would neglect to pay his or her summer's Apple Cellar printing fees.*) 2 A comedic film, starring Alicia Silverstone and showing at 9:00 on Friday in the Barn, that will remind many in this community of the high school lifestyle to which they will shortly return.

sub.mis.sion *n*

1 Something presented for publication, such as Matt Micciche's guess of Ralph Fiennes as yesterday's mystery actor. 2 Complete, total, and utter yielding in the face of intense pressure (*The rest of the campus demonstrated their submission to paper hell, as Matt and Julie Lausé were the only ones who even gave it a shot.*)

fear *n/v*

1 A strong emotion caused by the perception of danger: see Top Ten list below for examples 2 To be afraid of (*The Waitstaff now fear the Men of Annex are too far ahead to ever be caught.*)

Top Ten (Or So) Challenges on Fear Factor Bread Loaf

19. Bungee-jump off Johnson Pond bridge. (WS)
18. Find, tame, and ride a wild moose. (FD)
17. Moose-tipping. (MOA)
16. Run Croutons for a day – confined to the Tea Cabin. (MOA, FS)
15. Hang suspended over Gilmore campfire for duration of reading. (FS)
14. Consume three chili dogs; defeat Tim Lear in footrace. (MOA)
13. Run through a two-mile cloud of deer flies while drenched in sugar water. (FD)
12. Successfully launder clothes using only Bread Loaf washers/dryers (five hour time limit). (JHK)
11. Start a sentence in class with "As a Republican, I..." (MOA)
10. Run longer Charlie Orr course – the one with the bees. (FS)
9. Conduct a five-minute, full-volume conversation in the Apple Cellar. (MOA)
8. Lap-dance Jim Maddox wearing only vintage Emilio Pucci dress and rubber Jimmy Carter mask. (JHK)
7. Steal beer out of Barn East fridge. (WS)
6. Crush earwigs into jelly; eat on sandwich. (FD)
5. One-man Johnson Pond reconstruction (WS)
4. Menstruate while sitting on Annex porch. (JHK)
3. Drive cross-country with Ed Brown in a Yugo. (MOA)
2. Attend *Arcadia* rehearsal, but wear Discman with volume turned all the way up. (FD)
1. Spend six weeks on a Godforsaken mountain: no cable, no cell-phone, not a single luxury... (MOA)

The Standings: Men of Annex (MOA) 35; Waitstaff (WS) 29; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 13; Fyler Sisters (FS) 10; Front Desk (FD) 9; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 6; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 6; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 5; Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) 4; Another Off-Campus Contingent (AOCC) 2; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2; Anonymous (A) 1.



THE CRUMBUDGEON

"What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry?" -Ebenezer Scrooge

Volume 84, Number 27

Thursday, July 31, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

"Literature is one vast hypocrisy, a giant deception."
-???

SCHEDULE

Michael Armstrong
5:00, Blue Parlor

Volleyball
7:00, Field

Basketball
7:15, Pepin Gym

Madrigalists
Performance
7:30, West Lawn

Arcadia
8:00, Theatre

Gilmore
11:30

MENU

Chicken parmesan
or eggplant with
marinara sauce;
assorted peppers
and bok choy; dill
bread; apple pie.

WEATHER

Perfect. Just as
everyone finishes their
papers, it gets ugly.

Today:
Partly cloudy, 84/58.

Tomorrow:
Showers, 76/61.

Saturday:
T-storms, 77/69.

Graduation Day:
Partly cloudy, 82/60.

A Word on the Crumbudgeon

Yeah, the rest of you are stressing right now because you've got a paper due tomorrow, you don't know what you're going to write about, and you desperately want it to be well received. Well, welcome to my world. You think having to write this thing *every freaking day* for six weeks is a walk in the park? That I *like* getting phone calls or e-mails that begin "Could you just put something clever in about...?" fifteen minutes before press time? Well, I've finally snapped. The *Crumbudgeon* presents all the news of the day, delivered with the accumulated smarm and vitriol of all these mornings in the Apple Cellar, trying to concentrate while the person next to me blithely types away at ninety wpm, *clicketyclacketyclicketyclackaclick...*

Armstrong Craves Audiences

Michael Armstrong will be reading from his new book this afternoon at 5 in the Blue Parlor – the first in a series of public performances today apparently designed to satisfy what one can only conclude is a ravenous and insatiable ego. Apparently garnering raves for his Jellaby in *Arcadia* isn't enough to satisfy his ravenous ego – he's got to perform *solo* earlier in the day, some kind of *command performance* to which we'll all dutifully come. (It's no secret among Director's Assistants that Michael Armstrong requires the largest graduation cap of anyone on campus – with a head this swelled, is it any surprise?)

Slim Pickings on Arcadia Seats

Great. The *Crumbudgeon* wants to go see *Arcadia* again because it was amazing last night – but of course it's sold out for the rest of its run. Oh, sure – I could show up just before 8 to see if anyone's neglected to claim their seats (about a dozen extra people got in last night), but knowing *my* luck, just as I'm about to get in, Faye will give me that sweet smile, say, "Sorry – all full," and slam the doors in my face, leaving me with only a constellation of fly bites to show for my supplications.

Poor Sportsmanship

Pulled hamstrings, twisted ankles, and probably a lot of other injuries I haven't yet thought of await everyone who troops out to the field at 7 for volleyball or down to Pepin Gym at 7:15 for basketball. And note how *conveniently* the organizers have arranged these two activities to take place right on top of the other, so all those multitasking athletes can't go and do both. Wonderful.

Gilmore Goes Way Past Bedtime

Yeah, and if you think that after *Arcadia*, you can just wander back to your room, flick on your desk lamp (which will probably burn out just when you need it most), and begin revising the paper that's already overdue, get a load of *this*: the Men of Gilmore *still* want to host one of their weekly readings – you know, the ones where if you're close enough to hear the reader, you're also likely to get a faceful of smoke and sparks when the wind shifts? Where certain folks have been rude enough to shush the quiet conversations taking place far removed from the reading? Word has it that Carol MacVey has unearthed something called *Arcania* by someone named Dont Stoppard, and that it'll be performed tonight at 11:30. The cast includes Paul Muldoon and Michael Armstrong (can the man *get* enough attention?), so it looks as though those two professors' students had better *drop everything*, drag themselves half-asleep up the Gilmore road, watch their professors butcher and mumble their lines, then go all gooey on them afterwards, lying about how *wonderful* they were just so they don't sit down to read your final essay thinking you're an ingrate or a philistine.

Seniors Show Scant Service Spirit

The Senior Class has been *really helpful* about signing up for Senior/Faculty Wait Night this Sunday. Could you detect the sarcasm? I wouldn't have to mention anything about it if Jen Welch had already gotten enough volunteers to help wait hand and foot on the Waitstaff (peeling grapes for them, cutting their meat into bite-size pieces, proffering the inevitable fresh-black-pepper-grinder). If you're a senior and you have the tiniest shred of a conscience, you'd better see Jen to offer to help out – remember, the Waiters will be serving *you* at your Graduation Banquet, so it's best not to tick them off, lest they "liven up" your shrimp cocktail with a little strychnine.

Winners At Dinner

Well, tonight at dinner they'll announce the winner (and honorable mention recipients) of the Bread Loaf Poetry Contest, and I'm not exactly holding my breath, because I'm sure that David Huddle and Paul Muldoon read my submissions, "Tennis Is For Losers: A Villanelle" and "The Pulitzer Is Way Overrated," and took them all *personally* instead of remaining the objective judges they claimed they would be.

Give this
slip to the
Front Desk.
SOON.
Got it? OK.

Departure Slip

Your name: _____

Your dorm & room number: _____

Your date of departure: _____

And don't
think you can
leave without
turning in
your ID,
either.

No, No – Go Ahead. Leave. I'll Be *Fine*.

Oh, so Vermont isn't *good enough* for you, huh? Starr Library's facilities are inadequate for the extent of your research, and you need something on the order of the Bodleian? Or you think that seeing a moose isn't enough, and that you're thinking along the lines of bears and bald eagles in Juneau? Or you want to be the Neil Armstrong of Bread Loaf and go where no student has yet gone? Fine, then – go to informational sessions with Jim Maddox on the programs in Oxford (Friday), Alaska (Monday), or Mexico (Tuesday). All sessions meet from 5-6 in Barn 1. And don't worry - we can do *just fine* without go-getter world travelers like you around these parts. Trust us. Good riddance. You'll come crawling back one of these years.

Ingrate Expectations

You're probably the type of person who doesn't even notice the people who refill your coffee or take out the trash. You think that a mumbled "gd mrng" or "thnks" is recognition enough for these tireless workers. You think they probably enjoy what they do and would gladly pay Bread Loaf for the privilege of serving *you*. Fortunately, many *decent* people attend Bread Loaf as well, and they'll probably contribute generously to the Front Desk's tip jar for waiters and housekeepers. Maybe they'll make a big show out of making their donation in front of you in what I'm sure will be a futile effort to coax a modicum of generosity from the recesses of your dark, festering, pustule-ridden soul. Or you could turn all Christmas-morning-Scrooge on everyone and give as generously as you can so that Bread Loaf can justly reward these integral members of our community. (Hey – it worked for him.)

Departures A Real Downer

Here's a *real good* way to bring everybody down on their way into meals: Remind them that the summer's coming to an end by posting a sheet where people needing rides to airports (or able to drive others there) can find each other to carpool. Sign up outside the Dining Hall if you're a potential driver or passenger.

Arcadia Conversation Covers Complexity

After *Arcadia's* finished and you're lamenting that you'll never see anything like it ever again, rub a little salt in the wound by dropping by a discussion of the play that Alan MacVey will hold in conjunction with John Elder's Pastoral class – Monday at 2 in Barn A. You'll feel really good about yourself after you find out how many of the play's intricately interlaced metaphors and motifs went right over your head. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Shipping For Softies

Look, when I was young, we couldn't ship *anything* back home at the end of the summer. We had to *walk* back home with all of our possessions – books, suitcases, *everything* – lashed to our backs with coarse twine. And we couldn't take the main thoroughfares, either – we had to use the back roads, slogging through quicksand-filled bogs and fending off the then-legion panthers on the (invariably) uphill route home. Now, however, we've gone all cushy, and Ed can *mail* your belongings back home for you. (And I know what you're probably thinking, but no, you still have to pay for the shipping yourself – you poor, put-upon creature, you.) Bring your packed stuff to the Front Desk next Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 and 12, and he'll make the necessary arrangements.

Sugarhouse Trip Sugars Over Facts

OK, so the Front Desk is looking to organize a trip to Bob (the Baker) Stowe's sugar house this Saturday afternoon, but they say they haven't decided exactly when they're going or how they'll get there – that people should come and see them to express interest. Hey – this is a *newspaper*. Last time I checked, reporting the news involved telling everyone the *facts*, not these vague, half-formed wafflings. Anyway, go to the Front Desk if you're interested in the tour. They'll figure the rest of it out from there.

Headwaiter Serves Up Swagger

In the Kitchen this morning, Gary Montano told the *Crumb* Bum that he saw a baby moose on the Frost Trail yesterday afternoon (and then gave the *Crumb* Bum a paper cut and squirted a little lemon juice into it for good measure). Now, the *Crumb* Bum *saw* Gary enter the Frost Trail area yesterday afternoon and briefly wondered if he could claim this as a kind of Kevin Bacon-esque, Two Degrees of Separation moose sighting. But the rest of you will probably laugh and say, "Of *course* that doesn't count," knowing little of the relentless anguish, abiding sense of inadequacy, and soul-searching angst that seven mooseless summers can bring about. Not that you care.

Get A Clue Already

Clueless is both the name of this week's film and a word that describes everyone who hasn't yet figured out that all movies take place at 9 on Fridays in the Barn. If you can't find your way there, well then, you don't deserve to be entertained and plied with SmartFood. Your loss.

Dance Features Music Of Rush

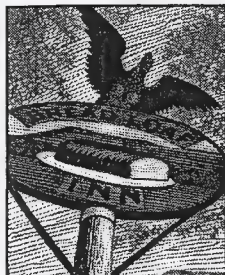
So just when the campus needs a chance to let down its collective hair, we've got to go and shorten the dance from 11-1 so as not to intrude upon the pastoral hush of *Arcadia's* Saturday performance (although frankly, I can't see how Lady Croom would be any more put out by the thumping bass line of *Super Freak, Part I* than she already is by Mr. Noakes' thumping steam engine).

And I, As Nincompoop of Campus, Say...

...that the recent trivia question responses (or lack thereof) show a pathetic inability to wrench your minds away from coursework for even the briefest contemplation of an amusing little factoid or question. At least Andy Pedersen put in the minimal effort required to figure out that Tom Stoppard was the obvious answer to yesterday's question. Today's answer is hidden in a headline somewhere, but if you think I'm going to spoon-feed it to you by telling you any more, you've got another thing coming. Cry me a river.

Bad Things Come In Three

Oh, sure, Joseph Battell led a leisurely and privileged enough life to write two volumes of *Ellen* and arrange for their publication, but somehow never got around to writing Volume III, as he stated he would. What gives? How could he thus deprive the Guys of Gilmore of a 50% increase in the number passages worthy of being derided on Thursday evenings? It might inject a little variety into the proceedings, as they read pretty much the same passages every year. (Trust me, I know – the pages are turned down and the relevant passages were underlined years ago in order to spare future generations of Gilmorens from having to trudge through 140 pages of discourse on the geometrical properties of sound looking for something salacious.) Anyway, we're left with only musings of what Volume III might have brought, which leads us to our next task: **Top Ten Plot Twists In Volume III of *Ellen***. Responses due to the *Crumb* by 11 AM Monday morning for publication in that day's issue.



THE CRUMB

"...disappointing stories, which have no proper ending and therefore no proper meaning." -Max Frisch

Volume 84, Number 28

Friday, August 1, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Who, according to Oscar Wilde, "writes fiction as if it were a painful duty"?

SCHEDULE

Ultimate
4:00, Field

Oxford Q&A
5:00, Barn 1

Madrigalists
7:30, West Lawn
(Dining Hall if rain)

Arcadia
8:00, Theatre

Clueless
9:00, Barn

MENU

Macaroni & cheese; scalloped potatoes with ham; squash & zucchini sauté; strawberry shortcake.

WEATHER

Today:
Showers, 75/63.

Tomorrow:
AM rain, 82/65.

Sunday:
Cloudy, 82/68.

Graduation Day:
Keep your fingers crossed...
Partly cloudy, 80/58.

Thinkin' Of Lincoln?

If you're interested in finding out more about Bread Loaf's program at Lincoln College, Oxford, you'll want to attend an informational session with Jim Maddox this afternoon from 5-6 in Barn 1. Jim will be able to tell you all about the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of Oxford and will cheerfully define the following potentially enigmatic and distinctively Lincolnian terms: "High Table," "Deep Hall," "nosebag," and "scout." Similar meetings for other campuses will take place on Monday (Alaska) and Tuesday (Mexico).

Can You Come Out To Play?

If you've been slaving away at that fifteen-pager for ninety-six consecutive hours and are just now emerging from your burrow, pasty-faced and blinking at the shock of natural light upon your corneas, then you might need reminding that *Arcadia* continues through Sunday. If you don't have a ticket, there's still hope. Just linger outside the doors as curtain approaches, look imploringly at Faye, and she will do her best to squeeze you in if there are no-shows. Showtime is 8:00, with the Madrigalists providing pre-show entertainment at 7:30 each night. Their concert, normally held on the West Lawn, will take place in the Dining Hall if it's raining.

2004 Student Body Taking Form

Don't forget to stop outside the Office for a re-enrollment form (if you're returning to a Bread Loaf campus in 2004) and a transcript request form (if, in addition to the grade report you'll automatically receive, you need a full official transcript sent somewhere). You'd hate it if no glorious Bread Loaf catalog arrived in midwinter because the Office didn't know you intended to return, or if the Ph.D. program to which you'd applied never received a Bread Loaf transcript and was forced to conclude that such a preposterously titled institution was merely the most transparent aspect of your attempt to fabricate a plausible academic history.

Austen Powers Film Adaptation

A recently unearthed early, early draft of Jane Austen's *Emma* reveals that Emma originally employed the phrase "like, as if" in casual conversation and that Chapter 17 took place somewhere called "the Galleria" - discoveries that indicate that Austen was as ahead of her time as Thomasina Coverly. They also explain Amy Heckerling's inspiration to set *Emma* in the affluent L.A. suburbs and call it *Clueless*. Drop by the Barn tonight to see this now-classic comedy of high school life, starring Alicia Silverstone and featuring Wallace Shawn and Dan Hedaya in hilarious supporting roles. Showtime is 9:00.

Man Can Live On BreadNet Alone

Caroline Eisner can install BreadNet on your laptop if you drop it off with her any morning between now and Wednesday. Having access to BreadNet is a nice way to bring a little bit of the Mountain home with you, but if you'd like to pursue further Vermont verisimilitude, you'll have to buy a canister of black flies that, when loosed in your home, apartment, or classroom, will bring back fond memories of summer through their distracting buzz and their relentless assaults on exposed skin.

Rglr Brn Dnc Crwdd Nto Tw Hrs

Although tomorrow evening's dance will be somewhat truncated so it doesn't conflict with *Arcadia*, we'll strive to make the most of every minute. Kurt and Maggie will stand on the Barn porch, hands cupped to ears, listening for the first faint strains of applause wafting from the Theatre around 11:00. They'll then flip the switch that opens the taps, pumps up the volume, and sets the disco ball rotating for two hours of gyrating and socializing. Whether you're celebrating the completion of your final big project or just temporarily escaping from its clutches, the Barn's the place to be tomorrow night. As always, bring your ID and keep drinks within the "Barnal Embrace" of the silken blue cord.

Give this slip to the Front Desk ASAP; also give them your ID before you go.

Departure Slip

Your name: _____

Your dorm & room number: _____

Your date of departure: _____

Look for the Front Desk's "Departure Slip Drawing" soon. You could win a prize!

Salinger's *Nine Stories* Now 7; *Henry ¾, Part I* Also Available

The Bookstore's end-of-summer sale is a great opportunity to stock up on all those texts you've heard friends and neighbors raving about and now actually believe you can find time to read. Just about everything in stock will be 20% off starting Monday at 8:30 and continuing through Thursday – although both the price of phone cards/graduation regalia/special orders and the level of Ed Brown's singularly grating banter will, sadly, remain unchanged.

Slip Slidin' Away

The Ultimate crew plans a get-together for 4:00 this afternoon on the Field. You may think it pure folly to spend a windy, rainy afternoon running about outside, but any Ultimate veteran can tell you that a wet playing field transforms ordinary dives into SportsCenter-worthy, fifteen-foot wet-grass slides. Sometimes you catch the disc, too, but that hardly matters – it's the Slip-'N'-Slide that's the fun part.

Can't Stop Stoppard

Why *Arcadia's* subject matter – Byron, iterated algorithms, human attraction, Newton's Second Law of Thermodynamics, grouse, the dwarf dahlia, landscape gardening, and academic research – would prove confusing or complex to the average viewer is difficult to imagine. Nonetheless, Alan MacVey will be leading a conversation about the Stoppard play and its Bread Loaf incarnation on Monday at 2 in Barn A. The discussion will take place in conjunction with John Elder's Pastoral class, but anyone wishing to come is welcome to do so.

Students Whose Poetry Stanza Lone

If you missed the announcement at dinner yesterday, the winners of the Bread Loaf Poetry Prize for 2003 were Sonja Czarnecki for "Behind the Milkhouse" and MacNair Randall for "While the Lights at Los Alamos Twinkled an Hour Away." Honorable mention went to the following poems: "Want" by Rebecca Armstrong, "Twilight" by Elizabeth Neely, "Thirteen Fish" by John Martin, and "A Clearing" by Brendan Sullivan. Copies of all the aforementioned poems are available at the Front Desk and outside the Dining Hall.

Who's Who For Final Blue (Blue-Hoo)

The summer's final Blue Parlor reading will take place this Sunday at 7:30; Kalli Federhoffer and Laurie Clark are the only two readers of whom the *Crumb* is aware, but don't be surprised if they're joined by other campus talents on Sunday night. Listen for any updates from Mark or Justin at upcoming meals.

Stinginess is Poor Trait of Ladies, Gents

Don't forget to leave generous tips for the waiters and housekeepers at the Front Desk before you go. You used to be able to reward individual waiters who had been particularly solicitous, attentive, and courteous by slipping folded \$1 bills underneath their apron strings, but the resultant table dances got a little out of control, forcing the curtailment of that particular system of rewards.

Brown Makes Campus Ship Shape

In case you dread the thought of having to lug boxes of books to the airport or fear the feasibility of fitting everything into your car, Ed Brown has the solution. Pack up any items you want shipped home and bring them to the Front Desk on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between 9 and 12, and he'll help you negotiate the byzantine permutations of "Next Day Air," "Second Day Ground," and "Three-Week Pack Mule."

Pedersen, Broderon Knowed 'Er, Son

Two old standbys, Andy Pederson and Kurt Broderon, deduced that Anais Nin was the author of yesterday's mystery quotation. In years past, both would be in the running for the first-place trivia prize, \$5000 cash or a one-year pass to every Director's Reception (your choice). The sluggish economy, however, slashed the *Crumb's* prize budget, reducing our offerings this year to the half-destroyed car in the Barn lot or one free page of printing from the Apple Cellar (your choice).

Three Is The Magic Number

The mind boggles at the thought of even more unbearably overwrought prose, more plotlines of strained (or nonexistent) credulity, and more disturbingly lascivious undercurrents, and yet one must confront the truth: Joseph Battell intended to write a **third** volume of *Ellen*. Needless to say, this would have been an error in judgment that, seen through to fruition, would have placed the *Elleniad* in the class of *Police Academy* as imaginative efforts that should have been mercifully euthanized after the original incarnation. The fact that no such third volume exists poses no problem for us, however, as we'll just make up **Top Ten Plot Twists Of Volume III of *Ellen*** by Monday at 11 for inclusion in that day's *Crumb*.



THE CRUMB

Guest Columnists Edition

"Nature is commonplace.
Imitation is more interesting."
-Gertrude Stein

Volume 84, Number 29

Monday, August 4, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

Of the writers imitated
in this issue, whose
production dropped
off severely after
surviving a serious
(and understandably
traumatic) train
accident?

SCHEDULE

Arcadia Discussion
2:00, Barn A

Alaska Q&A
5:00, Barn 1

Describing the
Imagination
5:00, Barn A

Directing Scenes
7:00, Theatre

Paul Muldoon
Class Reading
7:30, Barn 1

MENU by Issa

Turkey a la king
Or tofu, cooked the
same way.
Carrots, egg noodles.

Rye is tonight's
bread.
The dessert I do not
know.
You must wait and
see.

METEOREOLOGY

Today:
No possibility of
taking a walk today.
T-storms, 79/67.

Tomorrow:
Morning walk
possible.
PM T-storms,
80/65.

Beyond that:
Walks unlikely.
T-storms, low 80's.

from Dramatic Etiquette

by Emily Post, Crumb Manners Monitor

When announcing a performance, such as that given by the students in the Directing Workshop in the Little Theatre this evening, it is only polite to be as specific as possible as to the details of the evening, given the increasingly hectic schedules of potential guests. For example, something like the following would suffice:

7:00 - Ileana Jimenez, from *Night Mother*

7:25 - Gwen Kowack, from *Passage*

7:50 - Jim Miller, from *Equus*

8:05 - Roger Dixon, from *Curse of the Starving Class*

8:20 - Andy Delinsky, from *The Mercy Seat*

Tomorrow - Scenes from the other five class members
Of course, audience members are held to similar standards of decorum; for instance, if one cannot stay for all the scenes, entering and departing are permissible *only* between presentations, not as a scene is in progress.

Stop By the Parlor This Cloudy Evening

by Robert Frost, Crumb Birch-Swinger

Whose words these are I think I know:

"My class is reading from their po-
-etry at half-past seven tonight
In the Blue Parlor - will you go?"

If you guessed Paul's class, you are right.
His class will make your evening bright,
And in your memory you'll keep
Their verses fine and crisp and tight.

Their words are lovely, true, and deep;
So in the Parlor take a peep;
Go hear them read before you sleep,
Go hear them read before you sleep.

from The Song of Michael Armstrong

by H. W. Longfellow, Poet of Dwindling Reputation

In the afternoon in Barn A

(Five o'clock, to speak precisely)

Michael Armstrong's class exhibits
Their big projects, just completed,
Which Describe Imagination

Using quite creative methods

And they'll even serve refreshments,

So you'll really want to be there

And I promise (yes, I promise)

It will be much more exciting

Than the meter of this poem

Which becomes so irritating,

A relentless endless drumming

(Where on earth to fit a breath in

As you're reading? You can't do it)

On your temples, on your eardrums

That you scarcely can imagine

How a person in his right mind

Could have finished *Hiawatha*

And not gone completely batty...

from Regrets Only: The Collected RSVP's

by Emily Dickinson, Crumb Work-at-Home Columnist

A narrow fellow in the Class -

Of Seniors said to Me -

A Party - would be Thrown for them -

At Earthworm - on Wednesday -

So to attend at five o'clock -

Each Senior - should then Plan -

The Faculty - will toast them Then -

With Shrimp - and fine Champagne -

from The Tale of Two Campuses

by Charles Dickens, Crumb Social Conscience

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the time work was finally done, it was the time goodbyes had to be said, it was the time to meet about a campus in Alaska, it was the time to meet about a campus in Mexico, the first on Monday, the second on Tuesday, both at 5 in Barn 1, one to the north, one to the south, one hot, one cool, one with salmon, one with salsa, one familiar, one brand-new, one at the University of Alaska Southeast, one at the Universidad de Guadalajara, - in short, the time was one of decision, when people might want Jim to answer questions about either of these campuses in the hopes of reaching a satisfactory state of confidence about their whereabouts for the summer of the year two thousand and four.

from Et In Arcadia Ego (Still)

by Tom Stoppard - Crumb Mathematics/Landscape Gardening/Romantic Poetry Supplement Editor

VALENTINE: Well, ordinarily, see, you'd put on a play, say for four or five days, people would come and see it, and then it'd be over.

HANNAH: And is that what Alan's doing?

VALENTINE: No. Not exactly. Not at all. What he's doing is, even though the *play* is finished, he's leading a discussion of it this afternoon from 2-2:45 in Barn A. He's feeding the completed production *back* into a conversation! It's what we call a "reiterated Alangorithm." And there's no telling what'll emerge - insight, wisdom, anecdotes, metaphors. It makes me so happy. A door like this one has cracked open maybe five, six times this summer. It's the best possible time to be alive, when almost every question you have about the production can be answered!

HANNAH: What I don't understand is...why nobody did this feedback thing before.

VALENTINE: There wasn't enough *time* before! He and the actors, they didn't have enough minutes in the day! But now - all they have to do is come to Barn A and - well, there's no limit to the *amount* you could learn!

HANNAH: But - is there anything else?

VALENTINE: Well, the other thing is, you'd have to be insane not to go.

from *Alice's Adventures Under the Annex*

by Lewis Carroll, Sunday "Kids' Korner" Page Editor

Alice wandered through the small green door at the back of the Annex and was greeted by a very strange sight indeed. The Mad Hatter's hat had no top. The plates had a neat fifth sliced out of them, as though someone had helped himself to a large piece of cake and sliced away cake and china alike. The tea had spilled all over the table, as the teapot had lost its bottom fifth.

"Come shop!" they all shouted. "We've taken 20% off everything!" "Why not pick up a copy of *The Merry Wives Of?*" the Mad Hatter suggested. "Or we have plenty of copies of *For Whom the Bell*, or *The Last of the*, or *The Sound and the*."

Alice selected a copy of *Atonement* to read in her spare time. She presented it to the March Hare, who was behind the cash register. He took the book from her, examined it closely, and then suddenly ripped out the last 57 pages.

"You can't do that!" she told the March Hare. "I bought that book to read all of it! Now I'll never know how it ends."

"But I was told to take 20% off of everything," the Hare reasoned. "So you were," replied the Hatter. "I'm - let's see, I'm - 80 percent sure of it," the Hare boasted. "What an impertinent girl you are!"

"Off with 20% of her head!" the Red Queen roared.

"Fiddlesticks!" Alice snapped back. And, picking up her discounted wares, she headed for the door.

We Real Hip (The Generous Tipppers. Students at the Front Desk.)

by Gwendolyn Brooks - Crumb Poet Laureate

We real hip. We

Leave tip. We

Give dough. Before

We go. Where,

You ask? The

Front Desk. To

Thank Waiters. (We

Ain't traitors.) Says

"Thank you." To

Housekeeping crew. We

Leave soon. Back next June.

from *The Sound (Of Your Ball Hitting A Tree) and the Fury (Of Missing a 3' Putt)*

by William Faulkner, Crumb Family History Expert

Through the trees I could see them hitting. They went towards where the flag was and I went along and saw them. Its the Bread Loaf golf tournament, Caddie said. Greg hit it near the flag and Tim gave him a prize. "For closest to the pin," Luster said. They took the flag out and hit the ball and it went away. "Shut up that moanin'," Luster said, "They made their putt. Dont you think thats good." And sometimes they hit the ball and it didnt go away and they stomped and said words like mammy used when she was cross and then they put the flag back in and went on. I heard Luster say that Brendan and Tim and Tim were first and Jon and Barry and Sean were first too. "Arent you happy for them," Caddie said. And we went along the fence away from where the flag was and they were hitting again and Luster said we could find one of they balls and I looked over at the fence and Luster said Ive got two already. Keep lookin Benjy and I looked down but I couldnt find any balls and we went back walking along the place.

"due to foreseen but unavoidable circumstances"

by e. e. crumbings

will (the) Cor-
wall C l i n i c
will be o-
pen
from 1to7pm (only) to morrow.

from *The Odd-yssey*

by Homer - Crumb Bard

Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story
of that woman, Caroline by name, skilled in all ways of computing,
the one who gladly installed BreadNet on laptops
brought to her by supplicating students, the better for them
to learn the minds of many distant men and women,
and weather many bitter nights and days
in Private Chats with summer friends,
while she asked only that proper tribute be paid
to the Cellar-god through whom all paper printing runs -
five cents a page.

Some neglected the duties, their best nickels remaining untossed into the
wooden box, whether through haughtiness or scorn;
Those wretches were struck down, without chance for repentance,
into the Underworld, to writhe in pain and guilt and shame.

from *What Maisie Didn't Know*

by H. James, Crumb Verbosity Consultant

What Maisie did not know, surprisingly, was that three significant
personages principally impressed themselves upon the newspaperman:
their names, Andy Pederson, Kurt Broderson and Kristine Palmero, were
thus accorded the esteem and social cachet bestowed only upon those
who, having read the denunciatory injunctions of one Mr. Oscar Wilde,
deduced - perhaps by their having discerned a clue in a previous day's
headline - that Henry James was, indeed, the author whose prose seemed
to indicate, to Wilde at least, that the act of composition was "a painful
duty" - even though, as was generally known among the better sort,
James could have found but scant pain in the dictation of his later novels,
a decision that surely resulted in the over-punctuated, mountainous prose
of sentences (single sentences, yes!) like these.

from *Ravin' About New Arrivals*

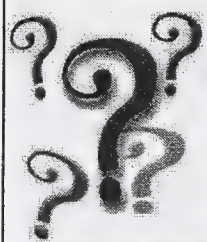
by Edgar Allan Poe, Crumb Staff Writer

Once upon a morning cheery came a message far from dreary
Bringing joy and glee and sheer elation from a distant shore:
Michael Wood (whom you know, maybe) has a daughter (name of Gaby)
Who just had a lovely baby! She's named Ava, and be sure
That the new grandparents dote upon their Ava, sweet and pure,
Whom they'll love forevermore.

"There Was A Box Went Forth"

by Walt Whitman, Official Crumb Exultor

I pack my belongings, I seal the boxes securely with tape;
I bring them to Ed Brown, be it Tuesday, or Wednesday, or
Thursday, in the hours before noon.
He wrests them from my grasp, he inquires as to their destination, he
assists in the paperwork!
I tell him, "You and I are one, though the Front Desk separates us;
We are part of a single immense soulfulness,
And I could no more prise the two of us apart than I could fork the
Missouri or the Ohio."
Crude and unmentionable though his reply is, it heartens me,
For I think of my packages shipped 'cross towns and counties and states,
westward or southward, on planes and locomotives and trucks fitted
especially for the purpose -
The muscled warehouseman scanning and sorting and hauling,
The supervisor, with clipboard and stern gaze,
(Miserable! I mark not your faults, nor will you supervise me;)
The pilots steering a course straight and true,
The driver stepping out of his doorless brown van, hoisting the package,
striding purposefully up the walk,
The grateful welcome he receives at the door,
(I know it is grateful, for I am that man, and the driver, and the pilot, and
the warehouseman also;)
I am inside the box and outside the box; I am FedEx and UPS;
My packages go outward from me; my packages return safely to me;
Completing the circle so recently begun.



THE CRUMB FINAL EXAM

Volume 84, Number 30

Tuesday, August 5, 2003

ODDS & ENDS

"Finished, it's finished, nearly finished, it must be nearly finished..."

-Samuel Beckett,
Endgame

SCHEDULE

Mexico Q & A
5:00, Barn 1

BLTN
7-9, Barn 1

Directing Scenes
7-9, Theatre

Chekhov Scenes
9:00, Barn A

Slide Show
9:30, Barn

MENU

Baked ham or
stuffed shells;
scalloped potatoes;
green beans &
mushrooms;
cornbread; lemon
meringue pie for
dessert.

WEATHER

Hope you like
consistency...

Today &
tomorrow:
PM thunderstorms.
High 70's/mid-60's.

Thursday &
Weekend:
Scattered T-storms.
Low 80's/mid-60's.

The Crumb Final Exam

Did you bring a #2 pencil? Sit quietly throughout lunch as you complete this test. Readmission to Bread Loaf 2004 is contingent on the accuracy of your responses. Answer all questions on this sheet. You may begin.

I. Mexico Essay Question

Directions: Given the informational session on Bread Loaf's new campus in Guadalajara from 5-6 this afternoon in Barn 1, prepare candid and thoughtful questions for Jim Maddox on any of the following topics: course offerings, residential life, contact with School of Spanish, transportation, local nightlife, Ben & Jerry's availability, extent of Vermont Liquor Control jurisdiction, Guadalarajan equivalent of *Ellen*.

II. Directing Scenes True/False

Directions: For each pair of scenes, identify which is actually being presented by Directing Workshop students this evening in the Theatre and which is a fib.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 7:00 | Toby Kinsler, from <i>Doctor Faustus</i> |
| | Septimus Hodge, from <i>Tortoise Plautus</i> |
| 7:20 | Chris Kavanaugh, from <i>Beyond Therapy</i> |
| | Morris the Moose, from <i>How to Avoid the Crumb Bum</i> |
| 7:45 | Melissa Roja, from <i>Loyalties</i> |
| | Ben Freedman, from <i>Zoombini On Ice</i> |
| 8:05 | Sushma Joshi, from <i>Death and the Maiden</i> |
| | Men of Annex, from <i>Dearth of Maidens</i> |
| 8:25 | Micki Kaplan, from <i>For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls</i> |
| | Frenchy LaRoque, from <i>For Whom the Dinner Bell Tolls</i> |

III. Chekhov Check-Off

Directions: Put a check next to the names of all friends, neighbors, classmates, prospective end-of-summer fling partners, or any other members of the Chekhov Acting Workshop whose final scenes you intend to watch this evening at 9 in Barn A.

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------|
| _____ | Marty Kostya Andrews |
| _____ | Eleanor Sonya Bard |
| _____ | Suzannah Arkardina-Carr |
| _____ | Abra Yelena Chernik |
| _____ | Laurie Nina Clark |
| _____ | Matt Trigorin-Colon |
| _____ | Tim Astrov-Donohue |
| _____ | Sarah Anna Flournoy |
| _____ | Kurt Vanya Feuer |
| _____ | Peter Ivanov Horn |
| _____ | Kelly Yelena Kopcial |
| _____ | Andy Konstantin Pederson |
| _____ | Marcia Irina Pitcher |
| _____ | Bernie Ivan Safko |

IV. BLTN Multiple Choice

Which of the following is most likely true?

- A. BLTN will meet from 7 pm-9 pm in Barn 1.
- B. BLTN will meet from 9 pm-1 am in Barn 7.
- C. BLTN will meet from 1 am-7 pm in Barn 9.

V. Slide Show Matching

Directions: Using the Motion Picture Association of America's categories for films (G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17), provide accurate ratings for the following images from Ed Brown's annual end-of-summer Slide Show, tonight at 9:30 and tomorrow at 9:00 in the Barn.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Innumerable shots of Adirondack chairs |
| _____ | Preview shots of 2004 Men of Annex Calendar |
| _____ | Yesterday's spectacular double rainbow |
| _____ | Gilmore lawn, Thursday, 10 PM |
| _____ | Gilmore lawn, Friday, 3:30 AM |
| _____ | Deleted <i>Arcadia</i> scene: "The Bedchamber of Mrs. Chater" |
| _____ | Texas Star in full swing at Square Dance |
| _____ | Kurt and Maggie performing citizens' arrest on blue-rope violator |
| _____ | Theatre Staff croquet game on West Lawn |
| _____ | Charlie Orr runners |
| _____ | Pair of waltzing couples at end of <i>Arcadia</i> |
| _____ | Unknown couple "snuggling" in Blue Parlor at 2:15 AM (dark, blurry) |
| _____ | Rapt audience at faculty reading |
| _____ | Ultimate Frisbee player in mid-leap |
| _____ | Secret "All-Jagermeister" faculty reception |
| _____ | <i>Harry Potter and the Circus</i> at Croutons |
| _____ | Typical, run-of-the-mill, staggeringly beautiful Vermont sunset |

VI. Bookstore Percentages

Given the original price of the following items, calculate the cost of each during the Bookstore's 20% Off End-of-Summer Sale, which continues through Thursday.

- A. Middlebury College window decal @ \$1.25
- B. *The Couch of Eros* (Norton Critical Ed.) @ \$18.00
- C. Inscrutable Euro-style bumper stickers ("ZB," "KLE," "V&Q") designed to confuse snobs intent on identifying your vacation spot of choice @ \$2.00
- D. Bread Loaf T-shirt @ \$15.95
- E. Quik-Clone™ Starter Kit (to replicate adorable faculty child of your choice) @ \$89.95
- F. "The Horror, The Horror: Ed Brown Reads *Heart of Darkness*" (audio CD) @ \$1.98 (remaindered)
- G. Pepperidge Farm Goldfish (Cheddar, Pretzel, Pizza sold out; Fennel still available) @ \$2.19
- H. Thomasina Coverly Commemorative Fire Extinguisher @ \$28.00

VII. Departure Data

Directions: Put an R next to all tasks that are **required** prior to your departure. Put an O next to all tasks that are **optional**. Put a P next to all tasks that are **prohibited**.

- ___ Complete transcript request
- ___ Fill out and return re-enrollment form for 2004
- ___ Kick vending machine and/or washer & dryer in final, cathartic act of vengeance
- ___ Pick up any photos ordered from Ed Brown
- ___ Lie to professor about why that last paper's still not in
- ___ Pay for summer's worth of laser printing
- ___ Leave generous tips for Waitstaff/Housekeeping at Front Desk
- ___ Pull car up to mysterious pumps outside Barn; honk horn; ask Leo to "fill 'er up"
- ___ Return your ID card to the Front Desk before you leave
- ___ Alert Front Desk if you'll be eating at Graduation Banquet
- ___ Disassemble Adirondack chair; pack in trunk
- ___ Attend Farewell Banquet tomorrow evening
- ___ Attend one last Gilmore reading Thursday night
- ___ Capture, name, and adopt pet earwig from dormitory bathroom
- ___ Flip bird to Vt. State Liquor Control HQ as you pass by
- ___ Give laptop to Caroline Eisner for BreadNet installation
- ___ Help yourself to antiquarian books left on shelves of *Arcadia* set
- ___ Return Departure Slip to Front Desk

VIII. Reception Word Problem (Seniors Only)

There are 51 members of the senior class. Shrimp for tomorrow's 5:00 Earthworm reception cost \$.90 each. Champagne costs \$14/bottle. Fees for tuition, room, and board this summer were \$5,040. Calculate the amount of food each senior should ingest tomorrow afternoon to offset the cost of this summer's study.

IX. Graduation Details Fill-in-the-Blank

Directions: Complete the following story by adding necessary facts. Here's the schedule for the rest of the week: First, seniors or guests who _____ to use Croutons' child-care service on Saturday night need to _____ them **immediately** at 388-2208 to reserve a spot for your _____. Graduation regalia has arrived at the Bookstore; seniors may pay for and pick up their _____ and _____ anytime during normal Bookstore hours. Seniors are invited to Earthworm _____ tomorrow at 5 for a reception with the _____ faculty. Kurt and Maggie will be _____ champagne and providing _____ shrimp. The Farewell Banquet is tomorrow evening at 6 in the Dining _____; _____ Maddox will briefly remark on the past summer, no doubt giving prominent mention to the infamous _____ Incident. On Friday night, the Senior Prom takes place in the Barn; it's just like a regular dance with a different _____. Saturday's lunch is a picnic on the West _____. Anyone still on campus is invited to attend that meal and that evening's Graduation Banquet, held at 6 in the Dining Hall, but any non-senior staying for the Banquet **must** reserve a _____ at the Front Desk. The Commencement ceremony follows at 8:15 in the _____ Little Theatre; after that, everyone is _____ to repair to the Barn for a final champagne reception. Sunday breakfast will be the last _____ provided in the Dining Hall; after that, everyone heads _____, where they'll have to rely on their own cooking skills, which are sadly limited to _____ and _____.

X. Interactive Sculpture Field Trip

Directions: Visit Jeni Hankins' interactive sculpture, on display in Barn 5 tomorrow morning from 11:15-12:30. Everyone is invited to drop by and enjoy the world of T. Thonus Casey, itinerant preacher and photographer from the Depression era.

XI. Original Syrup Composition

Directions: First, calculate how much of Chris Brady's award-winning maple syrup, now available in the Library, you will need to last you throughout the year. Then, once having tasted that liquid gold, wax eloquent about its color, taste, ability to evoke memories of a Vermont summer, and/or other aspects of its perfection in a poem in one of the following styles: Keatsian ode, Millay sonnet, Dantean terza rima, Muldoonian rhymed haiku, or Whitmanesque barbaric yawp.

XII. Trivia Research Project

Directions: Taking into account Kurt Broderson's correct guess of Charles Dickens as the answer to yesterday's trivia question, review previous 29 *Crumbs* to figure out who wins summerlong competition, thus liberating the *Crumb* Bum from the onerous responsibility of undertaking the project himself.

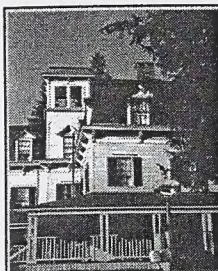
XIII. Top Ten ID's

Directions: From your knowledge of each individual or group's distinctive style, identify the following **Top Ten (or so) Plot Twists of Volume III of *Ellen*** as belonging to the Men of Annex (MOA), Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK), Fyler Sisters (FS), or Anonymous (A).

- ___ 16. Old Piney reveals he's actually a hemlock.
- ___ 15. One word: termites.
- ___ 14. Ellen puts on a vintage silk Emilio Pucci dress and rubber Jimmy Carter mask and lap-dances Jim Maddox.
- ___ 13. Ellen declares she's tired of Old Piney's needling.
- ___ 12. Ellen decides she's tired of pines; branches out by listening to sycamores.
- ___ 11. "Would Ellen like to get a little...knotty?" asked Old Piney.
- ___ 10. Ellen chops down the tree and founds a toothpick empire.
- ___ 9. Ellen becomes stand-up comedian; gets own TV show; dates Anne Heche.
- ___ 8. Ellen solves Fermat's Last Theorem.
- ___ 7. Pine chopped down by two boys (one balding, one with blanket) for use in touching Christmas pageant.
- ___ 6. Volume III is philosophy: If Old Piney falls in the forest, and Ellen isn't there, does she hear?
- ___ 5. Piney chopped down to make room for some sort of "English School."
- ___ 4. Ellen drops acid and thinks that ALL the trees are talking to her.
- ___ 3. Old Piney felled to make Annex porch, explaining the drooling and leering at attractive young women that continue there to this day.
- ___ 2. "No, Ellen. I am your fah-ther."
- ___ 1. Ellen learns the meaning of irony when the paper industry cuts down Old Piney to print Volume III.

The Standings: Men of Annex (MOA) 40; Waitstaff (WS) 29; Jean Hanff Korelitz (JHK) 18; Fyler Sisters (FS) 14; Front Desk (FD) 9; Director's Assistants (DA) 9; Brethren of Brandy Brook (BBB) 6; Anonymous (A) 6; Dames de Cerise (DDC) 6; Pam, Ana, and Justin (PAJ) 5; Off-Campus Contingent (OCC) 4; Another Off-Campus Contingent (AOCC) 2; Cynthia Rucker (CR) 2; The Directors (D) 2; Mark Valentine (MV) 2; Paul Parsons (PP) 2.

Now, then: **homework**. By 11 AM tomorrow, generate submissions for one last Top Ten list – **Top Ten Ways To Improve Bread Loaf For 2004**. Get your ideas to the *Crumb* Bum; he'll do his best to include them in tomorrow's issue.



ODDS & ENDS

*"The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep."
-Robert Frost (who else?)*

SCHEDULE

Senior Reception
5:00, Treman
(location change)

Farewell Banquet
6, Dining Hall

Slide Show
8:30 & 9:00, Barn

FAREWELL BANQUET MENU

Prime rib with horseradish sauce; tabbouleh salad; couscous with lentils, tomatoes and basil; baked potatoes; creamed spinach; red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting.

WEATHER

The Rest of the Week:
Scattered t-storms. Low 80's/high 60's.

Wherever You're Going:
Hope it's sunny, pleasant, welcoming, and wonderful.

THE CRUMB

*"So long, crumb-bum."
-from The Catcher in the Rye*

Volume 84, Number 31

Wednesday, August 6, 2003

Hors D'Overs

Seniors are invited to celebrate the completion of their Bread Loaf studies with the faculty this afternoon at **Treman** (note change in location) at 5. All congratulations, expressions of gratitude, anecdotes, and other conversational components will be interrupted only by repeated trips back to the big bowls of shrimp and trays of champagne - you might want to wear something red so that the cocktail sauce won't leave an unsightly stain.

Last Suppers

Tonight's Farewell Banquet is the last sit-down, waited meal until Saturday's Commencement Banquet. (The waiters, rest assured, will spend the intervening hours practicing how to fold napkins into fans, swans, and Adirondack chairs, the better to make Saturday's table settings elegant ones.) We'll revert to the weekend meal schedule beginning with breakfast tomorrow.

Photo Finish

Ed Brown will present two showings of his 224-slide, chronological retrospective of summer 2003 tonight - in the Barn at 8:30 and again at 9. Mark Wright provides musical accompaniment. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll say "oooooh" and "awwww" just like a Wheel of Fortune audience.

Final Clearance

The shelves in the Bookstore are getting pretty well scoured of their goods, but the 20% off sale continues through Thursday (or until absolutely everything, right down to the last business-size envelope (\$.04) is gone). Seniors are reminded to pick up and pay for their graduation regalia sometime today or tomorrow.

Closing Ceremonies

Trying to squeeze in a day trip to Burlington? Brunch at Rosie's? One last swim in Lake Pleiad? Here's the rundown on campus activities between now and Saturday:

Thursday: Gilmore (maybe?)
Saturday: Picnic lunch
3:00 Senior Reading (Frost Cabin)
6:00 Commencement Banquet
8:15 Commencement, followed by Champagne Reception (Barn)

Odds & Ends

The end of the summer brings with it all number of miscellaneous little tasks you'll need to complete before your departure, whenever that may be. Don't drift away until you've:

- Returned your re-enrollment form.
- Filled out a transcript request (if desired).
- Returned your ID card to the Front Desk.
- Picked up photos you ordered from Ed.
- Signed up for the Commencement Banquet (if you're not a senior and plan to stay).
- Left tips for your waiters and housekeepers at the Front Desk.
- Paid for your Apple Cellar printing.
- Given your laptop to Caroline for BreadNet installation.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Frost was undoubtedly referring to real Vermont maple syrup, and there's none better than the stuff Chris Brady's selling today in the Library. At \$5/bottle, it's a small price to pay to avoid inflicting upon your taste buds the horrific insult known as "Mrs. Butterworth's."

End Notes

Any Madrigalists staying for Commencement should plan to meet in the Barn following the picnic lunch on Saturday - let's say at 1:45 - to rehearse the pieces you'll be performing during the ceremony that evening. Find Jon F. sometime today if that time isn't going to work for you.

Shut Down

If you need to check out mapquest.com for the easiest route home, catch up on all the real-world e-mail you've been neglecting for six weeks, combat boredom by e-cow-flinging (seriously: check out flingthecow.com) or even (perish the thought) finish up your class work, the Apple Cellar will remain open, albeit with reduced hours, through Saturday, as follows:

Thursday: 8:30-12:30, 2:00-5:00, 7:00-9:00
Friday: 9:00-11:00, 2:00-4:00
Saturday: 9:00-11:00

Va-Moose

Kelly Kopcial and Anne Keller report a rare **quadruple** moose sighting – a mother and three babies - on the Ripton/Lincoln road on Monday evening just before sunset.

Pen Ultimate?

The last official *Crumb* of the summer will appear sometime tomorrow morning, carrying all Commencement-related news with it. For the first time, however, the *CyberCrumb* will live on beyond the summer. New issues compiling news updates, job listings, potentially interesting conferences, visits by BL luminaries, and the like will appear periodically in the Cyberbarn and in the *CyberCrumb* folder within the Cyberbarn. Print the *CyberCrumb* out and peruse over lunch to recreate the Bread Loaf experience more fully (of course, for a thoroughly accurate simulation, you'll need to prepare two menu options and hire a white-aproned server to attend to your every need at your dining room table or school cafeteria). See you online!

Final Countdown

Given the flurry of activity at every summer's end, it's no wonder that the Directors don't get around to reading those evaluation forms right away – and by the time they do, it's often already too late to take action on initiatives that would improve the Vermont experience immeasurably. So the *Crumb* solicited ideas that just couldn't wait, distilled them down to a feasible few, and publishes them here so that Jim and Emily can spring into action before the ink on these pages is dry.

Top Ten (+) Ways To Improve Bread Loaf For 2004

15. Seitan at every meal! (JHK)
14. As time saver, professors at Gilmore read from works they've assigned for Friday's class. (MOA)
13. Get Maddox to dress flamboyantly on Opening Night and read from Joseph Battell's other work, *Élan*. (BOBE)
12. Dogs allowed on campus provided they have literary names (i.e. "Chek-Arf," "Virginia Woof"). (JHK)
11. Neon lights for the Dining Hall – so when they're blinked to tell people to leave, it at least looks cool. (FS)
10. Seal off Annex porch with same soundproof, impenetrable material used to separate Clarice Starling from Hannibal Lecter in *Silence of the Lambs*. (MOA)
9. Extend Bookstore hours to 10-10:25 AM. (BOBE)
8. Ban Korelitz, MOA, Waitstaff from Top 10 submission, enabling Fyler Sisters to come in first. (FS)
7. Get Jupiter to do that thing Mars is doing, except much bigger and with sound effects. (BOBE)
6. Plastic surgeon on duty in Cornwall. (JHK)
5. Sponsors: "Nalgene Presents the Wonder Bread Loaf School of English by Subaru." (MOA)
4. Long-overdue plaque honoring "Gary Montano Ultimate Frisbee Park"; classes asked to please not distract disc golfers outside. (BOBE)
3. Complimentary breakfast room service from Ed Brown. (BOBE)
2. Women of Annex. (MOA)
1. A little more competition in the Top 10 list. (MOA)

A nice late rally from the Boys of Barn East, but no one touches the Men of Annex, 2003 Champions. Thanks for a great summer of submissions – now just bide your time until the resumption of the competition next June by laughing at David Letterman's lists...

The Crumb

Volume 84, Number 32

Thursday, August 7, 2003

...and long into the Vermont night, the hills reverberated with the sounds of students celebrating the end of six weeks' hard work. The seniors remained to receive their diplomas on Saturday; others intended to linger on for the rest of the week. But over the next few days more and more students, whether by choice or by necessity, pulled away from the Mountain, taking with them friendships and memories that would endure throughout the winter. The parking lot emptied; meals were more sparsely attended; a strange silence fell over the Library and the porches and the tennis courts and the Barn. The mowing of the Inn meadow signaled the inevitable end to another summer of beauty and growth. To many, the place suddenly seemed not quite the Bread Loaf they had come to know, and in a way, it was *not* really Bread Loaf any longer. For indeed, the magic of the place inhered not in the buildings and trees themselves, but in the people who for six weeks suffused it with diligence and talent and love – and that magic evanesced as they disappeared.

Thus propelled by the knowledge that summer was indeed drawing to a close, those who remained cherished their remaining days here. They attended the informal Senior Prom on Friday evening in the Barn and a picnic luncheon on Saturday afternoon on the West Lawn. If they planned to eat at the Commencement Banquet at 6 that evening, they asked the friendly Front Desk staff to reserve them a spot. After Saturday's dinner, the community and their guests repaired in anticipation to the Little Theatre, where the graduates would shortly be bestowed with their M.A.'s and M.Litt.'s. And then to one last celebration in the Barn, this one a shade more elegant than the previous night's festivity, where glasses of champagne could be raised in congratulations and in thanks.

As the last cool morning stole over the campus, the students awoke, packed their belongings, and made their way to the Dining Hall for one final meal and their remaining farewells. By noon, the only sounds would be the songs of birds and the whisper of an August breeze through the trees. And somewhere high on the hills overlooking this magical place, the Old Pine gazed down at the last departing students, silently wishing them goodbye and good luck, sad at the passing of another summer but smiling in the knowledge that when June arrived once more, many of them would again take leave of their friends, families, and schools to return here, to a place he hoped they considered every bit as much their home.

Ten months, he knew, would not seem that long.

The End